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'Denial of JGO witnesses' right to speak in the vernacular was embarrassing' PAGE 2

Senate committees will convene Friday to tackle proposed impeachment rules. PAGE 4

$1

Senate language dooms gov't retirees' bonus bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously voted yesterday to reject the Senate's version of a bill that gives a $1,000 bonus for government retirees after objecting to the Senate's insertion of language that gives Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' 100% reprogramming authority over the budget.

» Democrats say they support $1,000 bonus, but don't trust Torres with 100% reprogramming authority

All 20 representatives agreed to the creation of a conference committee that will hammer out with the Senate a mutually acceptable bill for the retirees' bonuses.

» Villagomez creates conference committee

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) appointed Ways and Means chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), vice speaker Blas

See SENATE on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:11pm, Feb. 22, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Additional Dose Vaccinated:	56%
Days since last community transmission	2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,991
Fully Vaccinated:	37,052
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,329
Fully Vaccinated:	5,188
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,136
Additional Dose:	20,890

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	42,544	667*	43,211
Recovered	37,055	2,490	39,545
Active	2,681	667	3,348
Deaths	316	3	319

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,644	67	8,711
Recovered	6,995	334	7,329
Active	1,289	67	1,356
Deaths	26	0	26

*2/22=393; 2/21=274

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COVID-19 UPDATE

10 hospitalized; 67 new cases in NMI

As of Feb. 21, 2022, there were 10 individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19. Four of the patients are unvaccinated, five are vaccinated, and one is partially vaccinated. One of the 10 is on a ventilator.

In addition, 67 more people have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to

See 10 on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Tinian divert airfield done by Oct. 2025

KIMBERLY ESMORES

Ranking U.S Department of Defense officials and Commonwealth officials led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres break ground on a $161.8 million-divert airfield project on Tinian that is expected to be completed by Oct. 9, 2025.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ranking U.S Department of Defense officials were joined by Commonwealth officials yesterday to break ground on a $161.8-million divert airfield project on Tinian that is expected to be completed by Oct. 9, 2025.

Sloane

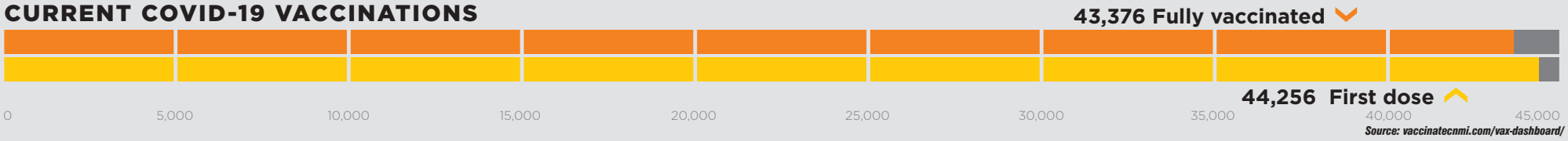
Nicholas

The first and second phase of the divert airfield facility—to be built largely on the north side of the Tinian airport—will allow the U.S. Air Force to use Tinian as an alternative landing site for its planes—a divert airfield—in case Anderson Air Force Base in Guam is inaccessible due to war or calamities.

Joining the DoD officials yesterday for the groundbreaking were Commonwealth Ports Authority officials, members of the Tinian Mu-

See TINIAN on Page 4

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

BUSINESS
If you want to learn more about managing your finances, here are some ways to go about it.
Page 11

WORLD
A long-feared Russian invasion of Ukraine appear to be imminent, if not already underway.
Page 13

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
From flowers to figurines, there are many different ways to incorporate accents into a space.
Page 14

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

‘Denial of JGO witnesses’ right to speak in the vernacular was embarrassing’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The most embarrassing part in the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee’s hearings was when witnesses summoned to testify were denied their right to speak in Chamorro and Refalawaush, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Torres

In response to a request for comment during Friday’s radio news briefing about JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta’s news release about legal fees, Torres said what was sadder actually during the JGO hearings was not the attorneys’ fees, but when the witnesses were denied to speak in the vernacular.

The governor said the JGO subpoenaed the government employees, so the witnesses wanted to exercise their right to have counsel and some wanted to speak in Chamorro or the Carolinian language, Refalawausch.

He said there would have been no legal fees if the JGO had not subpoenaed him and some government employees.

When Police Lt. Emery Kaipat of the Department of Public Safety appeared before the JGO Committee, much of his testimony touched on his constitutional right to testify in the Carolinian language and have the questions to him translated into Carolinian as well.

Later, the insistence of special assistant for administration Mathilda A. Rosario on having statements addressed to her during the JGO hearing be translated into Chamorro led to a tense exchange.

Last week, Babauta issued a press release in response to Torres’ statement on over $121,000 in legal fees incurred by the government in connection with the JGO’s investigation into the governor’s expenditures of public funds and travels.

Babauta said that Torres’ attempt to blame the JGO Committee for the legal fees is “utterly disrespectful to the CNMI Constitution.”

Babauta said it is a “perfect example of Torres’ failure to take responsibility for his actions and emblematic of his habit of blaming everyone but himself for this misconduct in office.”

In his reaction to Babauta’s statement, Torres said Friday he does not understand why Babauta stated that he was being disrespectful to the Constitution when he blamed the JGO for the legal fees incurred during the JGO hearings.

“Every individual has the right to be represented by an attorney,” he said.

The governor said Attorney General Edward Manibusan himself had denied legal representation for government employees who were being summoned by the JGO Committee. Therefore, the AG approved the hiring of private counsel as every person subpoenaed by the JGO has the right to a legal counsel, Torres said.

“How do you deny that? So if a person wants to exercise [his/her] right, who pays for that? Obviously it’s the government. So who do you blame for that?” the governor asked.

In his own news release, Torres said he had extended many invitations to members of the Legislature since the beginning regarding potential questions or concerns they may have or just to have fair and open conversations.

However, the governor said, they chose to take a different route that included subpoenaing, investigating, and questioning several dedicated government workers.

So far, the government has paid a total of $121,219 in attorneys’ fees to five of six lawyers/law firms, including a Washington, D.C.-based law firm, that served as counsel for Torres and 12 other government witnesses in the JGO hearings.

Relief drive for Tonga this Saturday

A relief drive will be held at the Garapan Fishing Base this Saturday, Feb. 26, to collect much-needed supplies for Tongan residents who are still reeling from eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai underwater volcano.

The Tongan community on Saipan welcomes those wishing to support the relief drive by bringing their donations at the Garapan Fishing Base from 7am to 6pm.

Organizers said they will collect canned goods, bottled water, and toiletries, and ship them to Tonga.

According to reports, 293 houses, the majority in Tongatapu, have been damaged or affected by the volcanic eruption and tsunami last Jan. 15.

For more details, call Veisinia Peteru at (670) 285-5334; Ana MacMahon at (670) 783-8290; or Dorian Sablan at (670) 286-2552. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Saipan municipal council to meet Friday

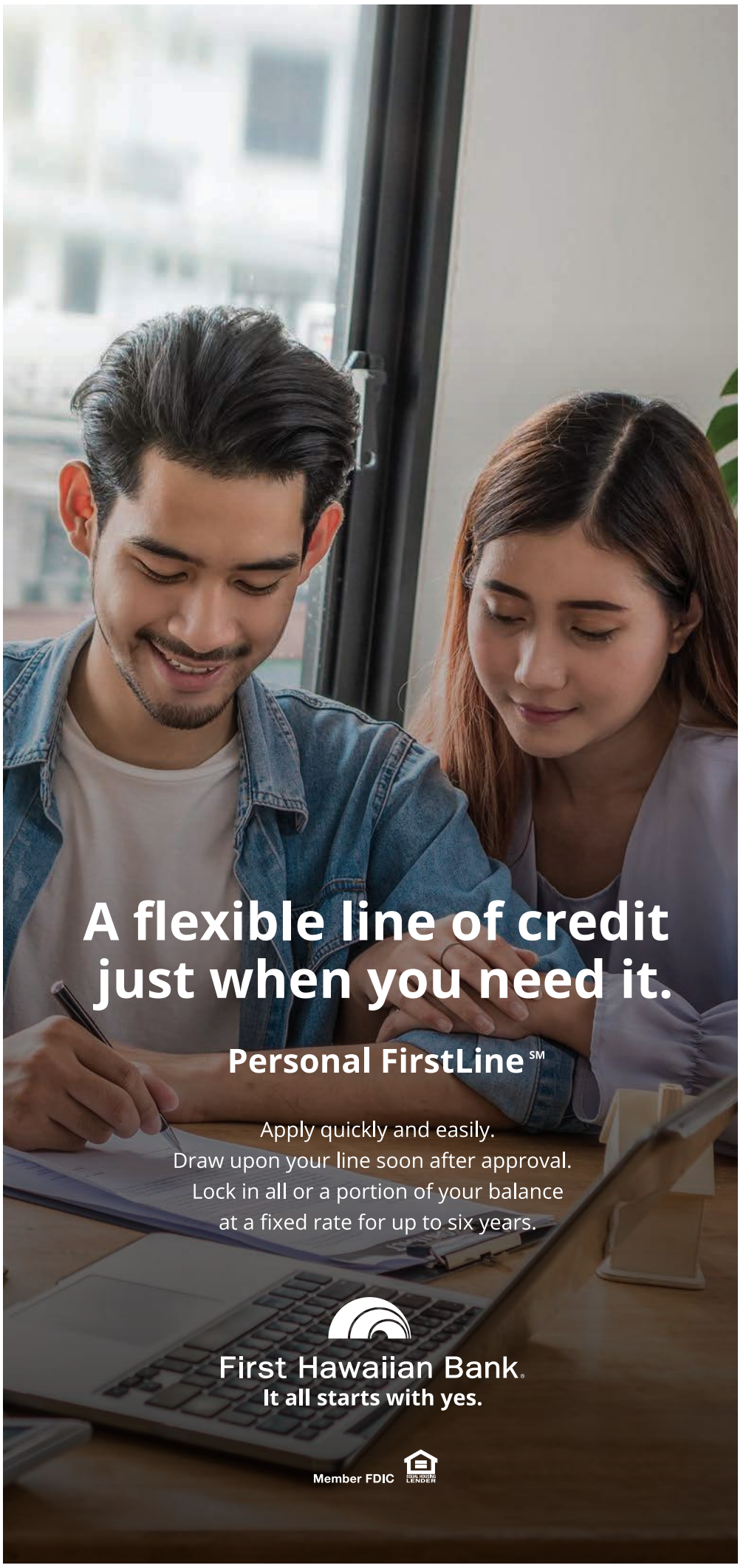
The 16th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council will hold its 13th Regular Session, on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, at 10am at the Saipan and Northern Mariana Islands Municipal Council office at Suite 105, Courtney’s Plaza in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. Pursuant to Public Law 8-41 the agenda will include the presentation of reports by council members, administrative officer; financial officer (financial status), and special project coordinator, who will give an update on the CCTV Initiative and Comprehensive Study. ***(PR)***

5.1-magnitude quake near Guam

At 9:26pm on Feb. 21, 2022, a report of a 5.1-magnitude earthquake occurred 11.746°N 144.483°E in Merizo Village, Guam. There were no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

5.0-magnitude quake near Guam

At 6:10pm on Feb. 21, 2022, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred 13.626°N 145.000°E in Yigo Village, Guam. There were no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***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March 1 is deadline to submit corporation reports

The CNMI Department of Commerce's Registrar of Corporation gives notice to the public that the Annual Corporation Report for 2021 is due on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

The Registrar of Corporation would like to remind the public that there will be a penalty fee of $150 for all 2021 Annual Corporation Reports received after March 1, 2022.

After March 2, 2022, a penalty fee of $10 will be charged for each day the report is not submitted, in addition to the $150 penalty for late filing.

Pursuant to Public Law 21-37, a new fee structure was implemented for the CNMI Department of Commerce's Registrar of Corporation to allow for upgrades to improve record keeping capabilities and offer more efficient and effective services to corporations in the CNMI.

The new fee structure, which took effect on May 1, 2021, is available at http://www.cnmilaw.org/pdf/cmc_section/T4/4205.pdf. ***(PR)***

Rip currents seen until Sunday

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point is warning the public that there is a high risk of rip currents on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through Sunday afternoon.

Dangerous rip currents are expected in east facing reefs. Swimming will be hazardous. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Reefs facing north to northeast will have an elevated rip risk the next several days. ***(PR)***

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds
02/23/2022

Final Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

This is to give notice that **Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)** has determined that the following proposed **Beach Road Improvement Phase III & IV project** under the **Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program grant number B-19-DV-69-0001 and B-19-DV-69-002** is located in the **100-year floodplain. NMHC** has identified and evaluated practicable alternatives to the proposed action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the **floodplain** from the proposed action, as required by **Executive Order 11988**, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project(s) is located on **Route 33, Beach Road, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands**

The public may view the full description of the project and provide comments by visiting the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the public notice/announcement tab and selecting the Environmental Review Records or you may visit the NMHC CDBG-DR website at https://www.cnmicdbgdr.com.

Written comments must be received by NMHC on or before March 14, 2022. A minimum 15 calendar day comment period will begin the day after the publication and end on the 16th day after the publication. Written comments may also be submitted through the following methods: email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp; or facsimile to 1-670-234-9021; or hand deliver to the NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan. Attention CDBG-DR Project Division.

/s/
Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

LANDLORD BRIEFING ANNOUNCEMENT

To All Interested Individuals, Real Estate, Companies, & Landlords

You are invited to join in one of the two sessions we have scheduled. Due to the space limitation, NMHC will provide two of the same sessions on two different occasions. For the interested Landlords who are unable to attend in person, a link is created for virtual attendees. If you would like to attend the briefing virtually, please send a request via email to Sweet Lisua: slisua@nmhcgov.net or Rose Marie Fields: rfields@nmhcgov.net. You may also email the Housing Specialist to reserve a seat for you at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

WHEN
FEBRUARY 25, 2022 | 5:00PM TO 7:00PM - SESSION 1
MARCH 4, 2022 | 5:00PM TO 7:00PM - SESSION 2

WHERE
JOETEN KIYU PUBLIC LIBRARY - SUSUPE
Please call to reserve your seat as space is limited:
(670) 234-6866 / 9447 / 7670

TOPICS INCLUDE
ON SESSION 1 AND SESSION 2:
Benefits to becoming a Section 8 Landlord, Landlord Rights & Responsibilities, Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Registration & many more...

For more information, please contact NMHC Housing Inspectors Mitch Aaron & Vicente Camacho at
Tel. (670) 234-6866/9447/7660

Email: Mitch at housinginspectoram@nmhcgov.net
Ben at housinginspectormz@nmhcgov.net
www.nhmcgov.net

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STOCK #: SP21T0155
Drivetrain: FWD
Mileage: 58,916
WAS $14,999*
NOW $13,999*

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STOCK #: SP21T0193
Trans: 4-Speed Automatic w/OD
Mileage: 24,087
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STOCK #: SP22T0011
Trans: 4-Speed Automatic w/OD
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Mileage: 33,812
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DPS calls off search for missing fisherman

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has called off its search for a local fisherman who went missing at sea over the weekend.

According to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, the search for an overdue fisherman was called off yesterday because standard search and rescue procedures dictates that a search be called off after 72 hours or three days.

As of press time, the man has yet to be found.

Pangelinan said DPS received a call reporting two overdue fishermen at around 7:55pm last Saturday.

The two men went fishing at Pakpak Beach in San Antonio on Saturday afternoon before they went missing.

Upon receiving the report, a DPS rescue boat was immediately launched and it combed through the Pakpak bBeach area, all the way to Coral Ocean Point.

DPS and its Search and Rescue Unit also had help from the U.S Coast Guard, which deployed a helicopter to aid in the search. The search was called off at about 2am and continued on Sunday morning but with no luck.

One of the men on the fishing trip managed to swim to shore on his own, Pangelinan said, where he received medical attention before being transported to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Senate panels will convene Friday to tackle impeachment rules

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two Senate committees tasked to come up with the Rules of Impeachment will hold a joint meeting this Friday in the Senate chamber to go over the proposed rules.

Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations chair Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) and Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations chair Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) informed their committee members yesterday that they will convene at 9am.

King-Nabors

King-Nabors said on the agenda's new business are House Resolution 22-14 that impeached Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the proposed Senate Impeachment Rules.

The committees will accept public comments at the meeting.

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) gave the two committees until last Thursday, Feb. 17, to come up with the Rules of Impeachment.

Hofschneider said yesterday that he will soon appoint a member of the Senate minority to be included in the joint impeachment committees.

H.R. 22-14, which was introduced by House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), impeached Torres for alleged commission of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty.

Torres has repeatedly denied the allegations. He said despite the answers given truthfully and under oath by the witnesses subpoenaed by the JGO Committee, members of the committee were not satisfied because they have a political agenda.

SENATE

From Page 1

Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan), and Rep. Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan) to the conference committee. Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) is expected to soon name the Senate's representatives on the committee.

During discussions, Democrat representatives opposed language in the Senate version that would give Torres' broad reprogramming powers over the budget. Rep. Sheila J. Babauta (D-Saipan) said the Senate's version of the bonus bill includes changes that they can only accept or reject.

Babauta said the main changes are increasing the bonus from $500 to $1,000 and granting Torres 100% reprogramming authority.

She said the governor is still within his 25% reprogramming authority and does not need 100%, as stated by Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig during one of the House Ways and Means Committee meetings.

Babauta pointed out that the House had impeached Torres for reckless and irresponsible government spending, among other things. "And now we want to give him 100% reprogramming authority? I don't believe that's appropriate and I don't support that," she said.

Babauta said they are waiting for the governor's impeachment trial in the Senate and so granting him 100% reprogramming authority is not something that she supports.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) claimed that every fiscal year under Torres' reign has ended in deficit spending. He said the total deficit under Torres' six years in charge of running the government totals $314,611,966.

He also enumerated alleged instances of corruption surrounding sole-source contracts, saying majority of these contracts awarded to Torres' beneficiaries all pay to play.

"They reciprocate," he said.

Despite all these, Propst said, the Senate wants the House to give Torres 100% reprogramming authority in order to give the retirees $1,000 bonus. Propst said he rejects this Senate's version but supports the $1,000 bonus for the retirees.

He said the House cannot reward Torres by giving him 100% reprogramming authority.

Rep. Christina Marie E. Sablan (D-Saipan) said the retirees' bonus is not the problem, but Torres who wants 100% reprogramming authority over the budget.

Sablan accused Torres of "once again using and manipulating retirees' to serve his own political end."

"Imagine that. This governor wants unlimited power over the public purse. After running deficits for six straight years. After we just impeached him for misspending public funds and abusing public trust," she said. "The sad truth, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, is that this governor cannot be trusted with public funds."

She said retirees are not political pawns and should never be used as political pawns.

Rep. Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan) said the retirees should know that she and her colleagues support the $1,000 bonus. "Please know that we understand your frustrations and financial hardships as this has already taken about a couple of months," Magofna said.

She asked the retirees to allow them do their part responsibly for the betterment of the government.

Last Jan. 12, the House unanimously passed the bipartisan legislation, House Bill 22-91, HD1, that proposes to amend the Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2022 to establish a business unit and allocate $1.3 million in local funds to pay the $500 bonus for each government retiree.

Last Feb. 3, the Senate passed their version of the bill, with amendments offered by Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) to reflect, among other things, the bonus increase to $1,000.

Last Dec. 14, Torres requested the Legislature to allow reprogramming of funds for the sole purpose of funding the retirees' $500 bonuses. The following day, the Senate adopted Senate Joint Resolution 22-05, which approved Torres' request.

The House did not act on the Senate's resolution, but instead passed the bipartisan legislation, House Bill 22-91, HD1.

10

From Page 1

8,711 cases since March 26, 2020. The vaccination statuses of the 67 cases are pending verification.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified that the territory has had three more COVID-19-related deaths.

Of the new 67 cases in the CNMI, 45 were identified on Feb. 20 and 22 prior to Feb. 20, 2022, one of whom was identified on Rota.

Of the total number of cases that have been identified in the CNMI, as of Feb. 20, 2022, there have been 7,329 recoveries; 1,356 active cases; and 26 COVID-19-related deaths. A total of 8,080 were identified via community testing, while 631were identified via travel testing.

A total of 76 COVID-19 vaccine shots were administered on Feb. 21, 2022; of the eligible population, 55.9% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 293 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Feb. 20, 2022:

- 175 via Community-Based Testing;
- 115 at Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center; three at the Tinian Health Center.

Guam's 317th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City on Feb. 19, 2022. The patient was a 74-year-old male, with no known vaccination, who had underlying health conditions and tested positive on Feb. 12.

The 318th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at GRMC on Feb. 5, 2022. The patient was an 82-year-old male, unvaccinated, who tested positive on Feb. 5.

The 319th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Feb. 21, 2022. The patient was an 81-year-old male, fully vaccinated without a booster shot, who had underlying health conditions and tested positive on February 18.

The JIC news release on Monday quoted Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero as saying: "We are yet again faced with the harsh reality that this virus continues to take from us. For those who have experienced the loss of a loved one, [first gentleman] Jeff [Cook], [Lt. Gov.] Josh [Tenorio], and I extend our deepest sympathies and prayers. We must continue with the public health interventions that have helped us gain ground throughout this pandemic. Please get vaccinated and boosted if it's your time and keep a close watch on vulnerable family members. Testing is open to all and life-saving treatments are available."

Yesterday's JIC statement quoted Leon Guerrero as saying: "We offer our prayers to all those who have lost loved ones to this virus. The community is reminded to seek care immediately if you have severe symptoms, especially those that are at higher risk. Do not wait for symptoms to subside on their own and be assured that there is treatment available to prevent serious illness or sometimes even death." ***(Saipan Tribune)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 12th birthday to Elkee Fumiku Babauta, who is celebrating her special day today. We love you! Greetings come from Mom and Dad.

TINIAN

From Page 1

nicipality, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and various CNMI government representatives.

The Tinian divert airfield construction project, which Black Micro Corp. contracted at $161.8 million, is composed of two phases; phase one: airfield development; and phase two: a parking apron.

According to Capt. Tim Librotore, commanding officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Systems of Joint Region Marianas, the estimated completion date for both phases is Oct. 9, 2025.

"The total contract amount is $161.8 million, which was awarded to Black Micro Corp., with a contract completion date of Oct. 9, 2025. These projects are also a testament to the continued partnership between the Department of Defense and the CNMI government as we work together to ensure security in the region," he said.

The first phase, which costs about $84.4 million, is the airfield development and it provides the site development for Air Force access, including a cleared level site with road fencing earthwork drainage, water well, and utilities.

The parking apron, that was contracted at $78.4 million, is the construction of aircraft parking apron and taxiways with shoulders and utilities.

Brig. Gen. Jeremy Sloane, commander, 36th wing, said the Tinian divert development projects is the largest and the most important Air Force projects in the region.

"Its airfield, roadway, port, and pipeline improvements will provide vital strategic, operational, and exercise capabilities for the U.S. forces and support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The Air Force is committed to a safe Tinian, a prosperous CNMI, and a collaborative region as well as preserving Tinian's natural and historical resources for future generations," he said.

He also expressed his gratitude to the Tinian community for its support.

"On behalf of the United States Air Force, I would like to express how much we value our longstanding partnership with the CNMI. We are especially grateful for the support of the Tinian community who enable us to conduct safe and effective flying training across the island and throughout the surrounding airspace," he said.

Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholas, commander, Join Region Marianas, said this divert field, upon completion, will broaden and enhance the DoD's ability to meet mission requirements, broaden its defense strategies, and expand it capabilities for training and operations.

"Few pacing challenges have emerged in this region. This has called for the need to strengthen our defenses, our forces, and our partnerships. Today is yet another bold step we take for the defense of this region and we could not do it without our friends and partners in the CNMI. Thank you for your continued commitment to homeland defense and your support to our military's mission to maintain a free and open Indo Pacific," he said.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM DRT

If you qualify for EITC, you could get back money. You must file a tax return to get the EITC, and other refundable credits (Child Tax Credit or American Opportunity Tax Credit) even if you owe no tax or are not required to file. You may be eligible for the EITC,

If you earn less than $53,505 and you have a son, daughter, stepchild, foster child, brother, sister, half brother, half sister, grandchild, niece, nephew, or adopted child living with you who is a qualifying child for EITC.

-OR-

If you earn less than $20,430 and you:

- **Have no qualifying child for the EITC,**
- **Are at least age 25 and under 65**

The EITC and the other refundable credits provide a boost to help pay your bills or save for a rainy day.

Just imagine what you could do with a tax refund.

See if you qualify.
www.irs.gov/eitc

'Customs administration's role in region more critical than ever'

SUVA, Fiji—The 177 members of the World Customs Organization celebrated last Jan. 26, 2022, as International Customs Day with the theme focusing on digital data, "Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem."

On that day, the organization paid tribute to the work of Customs officers as front-liners, keeping borders safe, as critical market players enabling the free flow of goods in the region and as revenue collectors to allow governments to continue to provide critical services to their citizens.

In recognition that Oceania Customs Organization members are in various stages of digital development, the OCO Secretariat has decided this year will be themed as "Embracing Customs Technology"—to encourage all our members to prepare and adapt to a technologically proficient Customs service.

"In the Pacific over the last two years, the OCO Secretariat and our members have had to navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic and find new ways to remain responsive and serve our stakeholders," OCO head of Secretariat, Richard Brennan said.

"This has included a shift to online functionality in service delivery with a renewed focus on core Customs skill required by the frontline officers. The modern work of Customs requires an automated function and use of technology to facilitate trade, collect revenue, and utilize risk based limited interventions on cargo through automated lane assignment.

"OCO has been endeavoring to deliver automation across our membership for some time and with the advent of the Automated Systems for Customs Data project from UNCTAD, through its Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus and the European Development Fund 11-IMPACT(EDF11) project, we will see this eventuate into a reality in the next few years across our broader membership, we have recently witnessed Kiribati and Tuvalu shift to ASYCUDA, so it is happening."

In the Pacific, Vanuatu is one of the countries that has taken a lead role in e-commerce with its electronic single window system allowing Customs and Biosecurity clearances to be done online.

Brennan also thanked all Customs officers in the region for being diligent in their work for the benefit of all Pacific Islanders.

"It is not just COVID-19 that they are trying to keep you safe from, we must remember they are also working against criminals trying to infiltrate the region with illicit drugs, guns and contrabands," Brennan said.

"We have done well in the last two years, but it has not been a good start to 2022 for us in region with Samoa and Solomon Islands confirming their COVID-19 cases.

"Further, we think of our Tongan family—the OCO Secretariat is ready to provide any possible support to the Ministry of Revenue and Customs in Tonga. We understand the critical role Tonga's Customs administration will play in ensuring that relief assistances are provided in a timely manner and at the same time COVID-19 protocols at the borders are followed as Tonga is still COVID-free. OCO members are ready to support our Tongan counterparts in whichever way we can.

"We are the Pacific, we strengthen our resilience by embracing technology. Happy International Customs Day." ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM WEBSITE: HTTPS: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
CPA-RFP-008-21
Request for Proposals
for: CPA Concession No. CRR-2021-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of about two years (contract ends on 5/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-008-21 is **January 13, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on February 23, 2022**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00 (certified cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM WEBSITE: HTTPS: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
"Car Rental Concession"
CPA-RFP-007-21
Request for Proposals
for: CPA Concession No. CRS-2021-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of approximately two years (contract to end on 5/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-007-21 is **January 13, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on February 23, 2022,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00 (certified cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on ***Friday, February 25, 2022, at 9:00a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes - (from October 06, 2021)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairman's Report
VII. Director's Report
- Financial Report
- FY2023 Budget Call
- Upcoming National Council Meetings

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
- Update on the Appraisal Regulations Ad Hoc Committee

XI. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
XII. New Business
XIII. Applications for Board's Review
XIV. Miscellaneous Business
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

CLI - CNMI

A non-profit organization run by and for persons with disabilities

Center for Living Independently in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
#1366 Anatahan Dr. & Guguan Dr.
P.O. Box 5759 cthrb
Office: 670-322-4303/04
Cell: 670-287-4303/04
Email: clisusanssatur@gmail.com
Fax: 670-322-4307
website: https://clicnmi.wixsite.com/clihome

Saipan Vacancy Announcement

Independent Living Skills (ILS) Trainer/administrative assistant /health educator/ advocacy

Job Summary: The Independent Living Trainer must have a strong voice for disability rights and independent living, working to assist consumers in maintaining their lives independently in the community. Promotes Disability Partners in the service area and collaborates with community agencies to best assist the consumer to reach goals for independent living.

Job description:
- Assists clients with self-care
- Teaches communication skills
- Trains and assists with community living
- Teaches socialization skills, Increases the client's independence
- Encourages interaction with people without disabilities who are not caregivers
- Provides schedules, routines, environments, and interaction similar to persons without disabilities of a comparable age
- Supports the development of decision-making skills and informed choices in all aspects of daily living
- Assist director and administration duties
- Maintain confidentiality and support privacy at all times.
- Other duties as assigned
- Education on health for consumers in the home
- Advocacy for consumers in the home

Job Qualification:
High School diploma , experience in case-management services and/or one year of experience in providing services to persons with disabilities. This position requires excellent written and verbal communication skills, organizational aptitude, and the ability to manage multiple tasks with minimal supervision. Must be available to work a fully flexible schedule as needed.

Documents needed:
Copy of Degree/Diploma, resume, updated police clearance, Valid Driver's License, Covid-19 Vaccination card/record

RESUME/BIODATA, CURRENT POLICE CLEARANCE, COPY OF VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE, Covid Vaccination record card.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE
Please submit resume and documents to ssatur@clicnmi.org or submit to Building 1366 in capitol hill.

Closing Date: 4/3/2022

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SUSANA PALACIOS ALDAN, DECEASED. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0030 : NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT REBECCA C. WHITE HAS FILED A PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION UPON THE ESTATE OF SUSAN PALACIOS ALDAN, DECEASED; AND THAT THE SAID PETTITION WILL BE HEARD BY THE COURT ON MARCH 17, 2022, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M. OF THE SAID DAY.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN TO ALL HEIRS OF AND PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF SUSANA PALACIOS ALDAN, DECEASED, AND TO ALL PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN SAID ESTATE, THAT THEY SHALL FILE SUCH CLAIMS WITH THE CLERK OF THIS COURT WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. COPIES OF SUCH CLAIMS SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, P.O. BOX 5222 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950, ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED SHALL BE FOREVER BARRED.

DATED: FEBRUARY 17, 2022

/S/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, ASSOCIATE JUDGE

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROSA ORONIGO PEHNOS, DECEASED. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0031 : NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT REBECCA C. WHITE HAS FILED A PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION UPON THE ESTATE OF ROSA ORONIGO PEHNOS, DECEASED; AND THAT THE SAID PETTITION WILL BE HEARD BY THE COURT ON MARCH 17, 2022, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00A.M. OF THE SAID DAY.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN TO ALL HEIRS OF AND PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ROSA ORONIGO PEHNOS, DECEASED, AND TO ALL PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN SAID ESTATE, THAT THEY SHALL FILE SUCH CLAIMS WITH THE CLERK OF THIS COURT WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. COPIES OF SUCH CLAIMS SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, P.O. BOX 5222 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950, ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED SHALL BE FOREVER BARRED.

DATED: FEBRUARY 17, 2022

/S/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, ASSOCIATE JUDGE

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CLARENCE BLAS IGISAIAR DECEASED, : CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0034 : NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT REBECCA C. WHITE HAS FILED A PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION UPON THE ESTATE OF CLARENCE BLAS IGISAIAR, DECEASED; AND THAT THE SAID PETTITION WILL BE HEARD BY THE COURT ON MARCH 17, 2022, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M. OF THE SAID DAY.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN TO ALL HEIRS OF AND PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CLARENCE BLAS IGISAIAR, DECEASED, AND TO ALL PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN SAID ESTATE, THAT THEY SHALL FILE SUCH CLAIMS WITH THE CLERK OF THIS COURT WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. COPIES OF SUCH CLAIMS SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, P.O. BOX 5222 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950, ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED SHALL BE FOREVER BARRED.

DATED: FEBRUARY 17, 2022

/S/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, ASSOCIATE JUDGE

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VICENTE PANGELINAN AGULTO, DECEASED. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0035 : NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT REBECCA C. WHITE HAS FILED A PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION UPON THE ESTATE OF VICENTE PANGELINAN AGULTO, DECEASED; AND THAT THE SAID PETTITION WILL BE HEARD BY THE COURT ON MARCH 17, 2022, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M. OF THE SAID DAY.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN TO ALL HEIRS OF AND PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF VICENTE PANGELINAN AGULTO, DECEASED, AND TO ALL PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN SAID ESTATE, THAT THEY SHALL FILE SUCH CLAIMS WITH THE CLERK OF THIS COURT WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. COPIES OF SUCH CLAIMS SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, P.O. BOX 5222 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950, ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED SHALL BE FOREVER BARRED.

DATED: FEBRUARY 17, 2022

/S/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, ASSOCIATE JUDGE

IGUEL INTERNS WITH HOUSE LEADER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jemalynn Iguel, center, has begun an internship with Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, left, who chairs the House Democratic Caucus. Iguel recently dropped in to say hello when Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), right, met with Jeffries Monday last week. Iguel was born and raised on Saipan and is currently pursuing a degree in Nursing at Northern Marianas College. She is passionate about environmental issues and educational reform, and looks forward to gaining a better understanding of federal policies and programs. She also hopes her opportunity in Washington, D.C., will inspire more Marianas youth to pursue careers in public service. The internship is sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies.

SHRM meeting today tackles mental health in workplace

The Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter will host a general membership meeting today, Feb. 23, 2022, at the Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Saipan, starting at noon. Doors will open at 11:15 am.

This meeting will feature a presentation regarding mental health in the workplace. Presenting is Shannon Williams, who is a licensed mental health counselor and the clinical lead for the Healthy Transitions and Suicide Prevention Programs at the Community Guidance Center of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

This general membership meeting includes lunch. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Roman Tudela at roman.tudela@marianas.edu OR Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com. Pricing is $25 for SHRM members and $35 for non-members.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The Society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(PR)***

GCC to mark 45th anniversary with alumni lunch fundraiser

MANGILAO, Guam—The Guam Community College is taking orders for its annual Alumni Lunch Fundraiser. This is one of GCC's annual fundraisers and this year it features a special menu and price to celebrate our 45th anniversary.

The menu was created, and will be prepared, by GCC Culinary chef instructors and students and includes herb-crusted roasted pork loin with sauce Espagnole, seafood imperial stuffed prawns with a lemon garnish, herb rice pilaf, haricot vert (green beans), carrots puree, and a delicious chocolate fondant sauce grand mariner.

Orders can be placed by calling (671) 735-5516 or emailing alumni@guamcc.edu. Plates are $45 each and all proceeds will go toward GCC student scholarships and campus improvement projects. The last day to order will be Friday, Feb. 25, 2022. Do not delay in ordering there are a limited quantity of 200 available. If plates get sold out before Feb. 25, a notice will be posted on the GCC Facebook page @GuamCC.

Several other events are planned for the rest of the year to continue celebrating GCC's 45th anniversary, including an open house on the Mangilao campus, a wine tasting event, a barbecue festival, and a golf tournament. Note that these events are subject to change. ***(PR)***

SAIPAN CORAL OCEAN RESORT

JOIN OUR TEAM! WE ARE HIRING!

Yes, we are open!!!

Baker/s
Requirements:
At least one year experienced as Baker. Must be able to bake and present different variety of special pastries, desserts such as cake, bread, and etc. • Assist Pastry Chef De Partie in checking completeness of all food needed, pastry area, equipment, inventory and delivery. • Ensuring pastry unit is clean, tidy and sanitized at all times. • Ensure that all completed jobs are fully checked before leaving the unit. • Work closely to the Pastry Chef De Partie and other cooks to ensure that the function runs smoothly. • May delegate duties to other baker working in their section. • Monitor to make sure dessert quality, presentation and safety standards are being adhered to. • Troubleshooting any issues arise in their pastry section. Knowledge and experienced in hotel/resort as a Baker is preferred but not required.

Cook/s
Requirements:
At least one year experienced as a Cook. Plan menus, prepare, seasons and cook all types of dishes, desserts and other food according to recipes, estimates food requirements and procures food storage. Handle food in hygienic manner and maintain food in good standards. Inspect and clean food preparation areas, such as equipment, work surface, serving area to ensure safe and sanitary food handling practices. Ensure food is stores and cooked at correct temperature by regulating temperature of events, broilers, grills and roasters. Ensures freshness of food and ingredients by checking for quality, keeping track of old and new items. Weigh, portion, arrange, garnish, wash and peel, cuts, measure, mix bake, roast, broil, steam food and ingredients according to the recipes or personal judgement, using various kitchen utensils and equipment. Serve food to waitress and patrons. Observe and test to determine if they have been cooked sufficiently, using methods such as tasting, smelling or piercing them with utensils. Satisfy local and international customers with different variety of Cuisine which include sushi, salad, appetizers, desserts and main entrees. Knowledge and experienced in hotel/resort as a Cook is preferred but not required.

Interested applicants must be able to obtain a food handler certificate and may apply to Coral Ocean Resort (formerly Coral Ocean Golf Resort) through this method:
1. Submit/Send resume to humanresources@cogrsaipan.com or
2. Walk In applicant may pick up and submit application form at Human Resources Office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:pm, except for Holidays,
3. Contact # : (670)234-7000 ext. 8131 or 8026.
3. All employment application/resume must be received no later than February 28, 2022

Accountant – SDA-2022-01
Saipan, CNMI

Accountant, Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School Saipan, CNMI

Prepares annual budget for board approval. Overall in-charge on the accounting and administrative operation of the company. Report to the board of directors regarding the finances of the company on a monthly basis. Prepare, examine and analyze accounting records, financial statements, or other financial report to assess accuracy, completeness and in conformity to reporting and procedural US GAAP standards. Analyze business operations, trends, cost, revenue, financial commitments, and obligation to project future revenues and expenses. Compute the taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting or other requirements. Review and Analyze monthly billing for all students. Responsible in the monitoring and supervision of Registrar and Office/PR assistant in the daily business operation of the school.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Accounting, 12 months experience in general accounting in school setting. Able to supervise accounting and administrative staff.

Salary: $ 15.76 per hour.

Workplace: CHALAN KIYA ROAD, CHALAN KIYA VILLAGE, SAIPAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL CAMPUS Saipan, CNMI

To apply: Please send your resume to SDA SCHOOL, PO BOX 501063, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to office@saipansdaschool.org Job Number – SDA-2022-01

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 *et seq.*, as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on February 23, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes from January 26, 2021
II. Public Comment (s)
III. Committee Reports
a. Committee on Awards
b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/ Forbearance
c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
d. Committee on Program and Development
e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative, and Community Affairs
IV. Administrator's Report
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Old Business
1. None
VII. New Business
1. Spring 2022 application status
2. 2021 SHEFA Annual Report
VIII. Executive Session
IX. Miscellaneous Matters
X. Next Meeting
XI. Adjournment

/s/ Oscar M. Babauta,
Chairman, Board of SHEFA Directors

NMTI
NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

Board of Trustees Special Meeting
NMTI Facility, Lower Base
February 24, 2022 @ 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Called to Order
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Adoption of Minutes
a. January 6, 2022
IV. Public Comments
V. Executive Session
VI. Unfinished Business
a. CEO Evaluation
b. Status Update on FHB Account
c. Board Vacancies Update
d. Rea-time revisions/edit to Board of Trustee Policy
VII. CEO's Report
a. FY 2023 Budget Review
VIII. Chairman's Report
IX. Treasurer's Report
X. New Business
a. Land Clearing-Koblerville Project Site
XI. Announcements
XII. Adjournment

WANTED: GRAPHIC ARTIST

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

is looking for a full-time graphic artist.

The ideal candidate must know how to use InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator; can work fast and is able to work in a deadline-oriented environment; must be quick to grasp instructions; and must be able to create ad designs, concepts, and layouts based on knowledge of layout principles and esthetic design concepts.

Supercharge your graphic design career by learning the ins and outs of newspaper publishing!

Email your application and résumé to Mia Carreon at mia_carreon@tanholdings.com or drop them off at the HR office on the second floor of the JP Center building in Garapan, Saipan.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 38

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trump's business fortune begins to unravel

Never mind those 10 years of Donald Trump's financial statements, says the longtime accountant to the former president and past, present and future chiseler. The documents purporting to show Trump's great wealth are, according to the firm which prepared them, themselves worthless. Oh, and please find another bookkeeper.

"You're fired!," the phrase which gave our local low-rent real-estate-man-cum-hustler a false national reputation as a business genius (thank you, Jeff Zucker, for the "The Apprentice") has now been used on Trump by Mazars. The New York branch of the international accountancy agency that Trump used when it called Weiser Mazars and Weiser before that has disavowed the materials they prepared for Trump covering the time from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2020.

We know all this because state Attorney General Leticia James, in gamely pursuing a civil case against the Trump Organization and trying to convince the judge to order the testimony of Donald, Don Jr. and Ivanka, submitted Mazars' Feb. 9 kiss-off letter to Trump to the court docket—and public view.

It would be really nice if the public also got to see the suspect records that Mazars has repudiated, particularly Trump's secret tax returns. James must have them, as does Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, since Trump lost his effort before the U.S. Supreme Court to withhold the files. The financial documents could be evidence, which would all come out in a future legal action. Longtime Trump financial shenanigans chronicler David Cay Johnston predicts that Bragg's grand jury is eventually going to indict Trump for racketeering. Sounds like a good fit.

Trump has spent decades running from the law, as taught to him by the detestable Roy Cohn, and he's wriggled out of consequences many times before. But the law is patient. It will catch up with him. James and Bragg have the evidence and have the tools. Now they have to go wherever the evidence leads, which is almost surely nowhere good.

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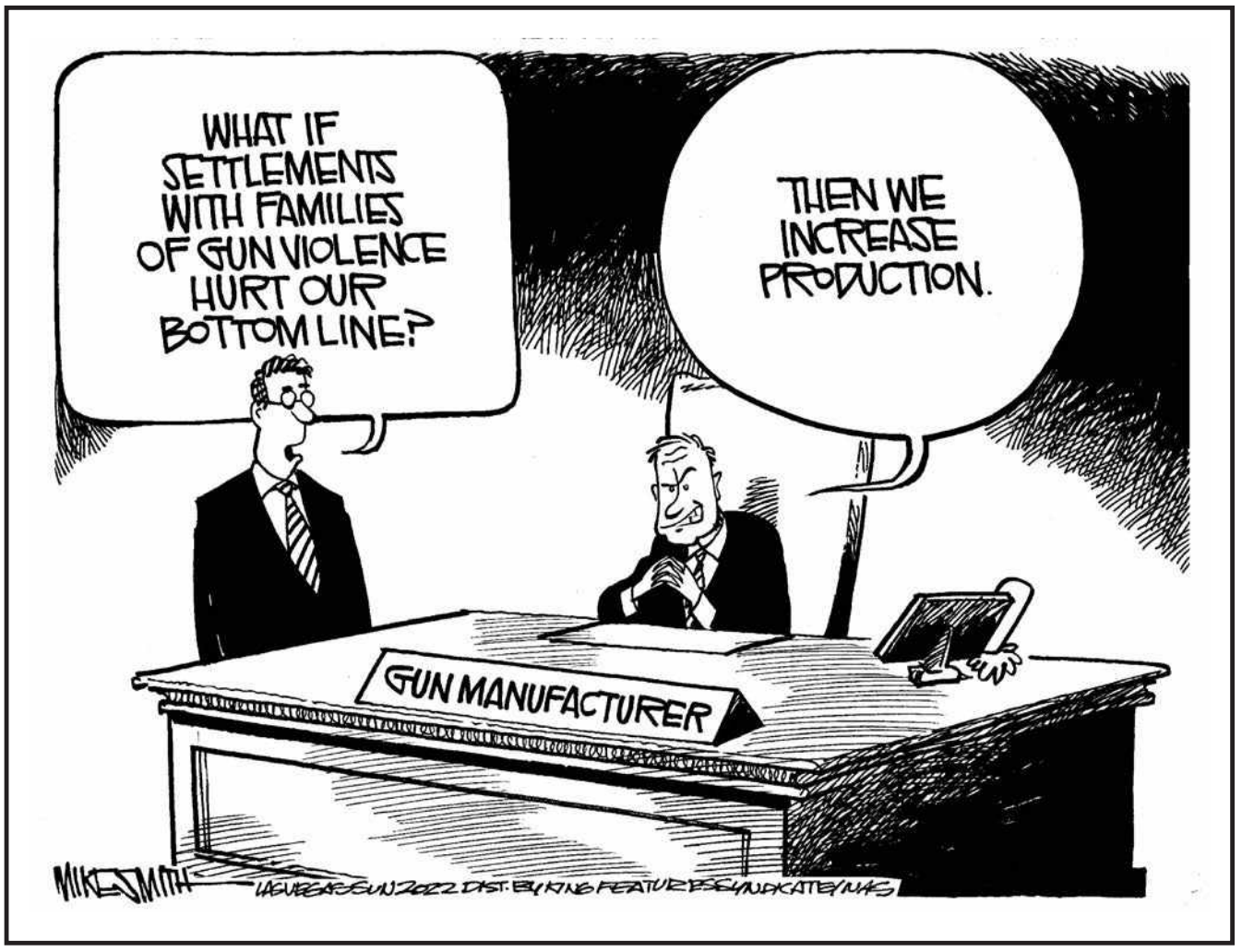
WHAT IF SETTLEMENTS WITH FAMILIES OF GUN VIOLENCE HURT OUR BOTTOM LINE?
THEN WE INCREASE PRODUCTION.
GUN MANUFACTURER
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We disagree about masks. Can we still be friends?

By KERRY LESTER KASPER
Chicago Tribune

Kerry Lester Kasper is a freelance journalist and senior writer for Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights who lives in Lincoln Park.

In the sad reality that is middle age, I have lost more friendships than I ever thought possible. Abdications to an ex. A move from the suburbs to the city, a change in jobs. Doing a generally poor job keeping up with real and meaningful connections amid the daily chaos of being a working parent during a prolonged pandemic.

So it's through this lens that I have found that one of my very best friends today is an anti-masker, someone who I thoroughly disagree with on the subject and yet still cling to tightly because I can't bear to lose another important bond.

My relationship with—I'll call her M—started long before COVID-19, when we happened to run into one another with newborns strapped to us in slings. Her daughter was three months older than mine, a long, chubby baby with adorable little tufts of black hair. Mine was tiny and feisty, a ferocious eater making up for lost time.

Motherhood—a continual state of second-guessing for me—was and continues to seem completely natural to M. She breastfed, with ease, while we had a first coffee at a pretentious local pastry shop. She knew how to get her tiny little wonder to sleep for hours on end—I, meanwhile, felt helpless and close to tears consulting books about the "healthy sleep habits" of "happy children."

Then, we started to run, sometimes so early it was before sunrise, a jog that efficiently covered 5 miles and the stresses of the week all in one.

When COVID-19 struck, she became one of my only outlets outside my own home.

As we navigated the beginning stages of lockdown, I'm not sure either of us had strong views—other than a perpetual state of uncertainty and a shared sense of frustration over the lakefront running path's closure.

But what solidified over time was an assurance that I had her back and she had mine, a commitment that grew even as it became increasingly clear we were on opposite sides of the political spectrum.

I find bottles of soy sauce and almond flour on our stoop when I'm running low. When her washing machine broke, ours served as her local laundromat.

Yet, one recent Saturday, the day after a group of parents won an injunction against masking in schools, I caught my breath, reading her text: "Would you sign a petition for (the girls' preschool) to be mask optional? (Totally OK if not)."

I promised that I'd dig through the research and let her know but did so with the sinking feeling of an impending breakup.

As a longtime journalist, life exists for me in a perpetual shade of gray. It drives my lawyer husband, who sees everything in black and white, nuts. There's all too often one more fact, one more study, one more comment, that keeps me considering exactly where right and wrong lie.

And with COVID-19—while I tend to place my confidence in our national experts—the increasing distrust and anger over continued restrictions among those in M's camp befuddles me. What am I missing? How could this otherwise perfectly reasonable person feel such anger over the rules I've trusted the powers that be to implement?

What I do know, for now, is that we ultimately come down on opposite sides of the seriousness of the virus and the right of a government to restrict or deny access to citizens based on personal health choices. I worry about unwittingly passing on a deadly infection and that my unvaccinated toddler could be the one to develop a rare, serious form of COVID-19.

M worries about the social and emotional developmental ramifications for masked children and likens the requirement of having to show her vaccination card at a local restaurant to being asked to give an intensely private medical exam in public.

I'm fully cognizant that we each come to this debate from a place of fortune—that our spouses and children are healthy, that neither of us has lost extended family members to COVID-19.

As our school moves to a "mask recommended" state in the coming weeks, our cards will be on the table—her daughter unmasked and mine masked until a vaccine is available.

When I told her about this column, I had a good hunch about what her response would be before she even sent it. "I'm honored."

I am, too, for a connection that is based on such trust despite disagreement.

I'm not sure our little ones will be able to comprehend why they will all of the sudden look different from one another in class. But I hope, like their moms, that they'll be able to look past it for the sake of friendship.

Maybe someday, our politically polarized nation can, too.

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Who needs an invasion? Putin's offensive against Ukraine has been underway for a long time

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

Vladimir Putin and his aides have long insisted that they have no intention of starting a war with Ukraine. President Joe Biden said Friday that U.S. intelligence has concluded that the Russian president has made the decision to invade.

In a larger sense, though, Putin's current offensive against Ukraine has been underway for a while now—through proxy forces, cyberwar, economic pressure and truculent diplomacy.

It's already had visible effects.

Putin's deployment of more than 150,000 troops with tanks and artillery on the border has forced Ukraine's military—smaller and weaker than Russia's—to mobilize. His cyberattacks have caused chaos in Ukrainian government ministries.

The fear of war has blown a hole in Ukraine's already sputtering economy. Most private investment has stopped, commercial flights have been canceled, interest rates have soared, and the currency has fallen to a yearlong low.

All that's on top of Putin's seizure of the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 and his military aid to rebels in the eastern part of the country.

"Putin's intimidation tactics are a great way of keeping Ukraine locked in the economic doldrums and vulnerable to Kremlin pressure," economist Anders Aslund wrote last week.

For a leader who wants to destabilize the anti-Moscow government in Kyiv, those measures count as achievements.

The threat of war has affected NATO's behavior as well. It forced the United States and Britain to withdraw military trainers from Ukraine, fulfilling—at least temporarily—another of Putin's aims.

It's made the prospects for Ukrainian membership in the alliance, already modest, even more distant. And it's compelled the Biden administration to acknowledge publicly that Russia has legitimate security interests that deserve a hearing.

It's as if Putin had taken the advice of China's legendary general of ancient times, Sun Tzu: The ultimate test of a strategist's skill is to win without fighting.

Perhaps, as Biden suggested, Putin has decided to abandon that path and move to full-scale war. But if he continues to follow Sun Tzu's advice, his next logical step might be to step up aid to the pro-Russian separatists who occupy part of eastern Ukraine.

Russian government spokesmen hinted at such a move last week when they claimed that Ukraine was carrying out "genocide" against the area's ethnic Russian inhabitants.

There's no evidence that such a campaign is underway, and Ukrainian officials heatedly deny it.

But the accusation could serve as a handy pretext for recognizing the independence of the rebel areas, or at least sending them more weapons in the guise of humanitarian aid.

Among other benefits, such a move would give Moscow a de facto veto over NATO membership for Kyiv, since the alliance won't want a new member that's already locked in low-grade conflict with Russia.

And that course would stop short of provoking the Western response Putin presumably fears most: the massive economic sanctions Biden and other NATO leaders have brandished.

But if Biden and the U.S. intelligence community are right, and the Russian leader has decided to invade, then he has made a different calculation: He's gambling that the sanctions won't be effective enough to hurt much.

Putin has worked for years to make his economy sanctions-proof, expanding his government's foreign currency reserve to a staggering $631 billion and shifting much of Russia's trade from Europe to China.

And if European countries apply sanctions, he can retaliate by reducing his exports of natural gas, which supply much of his neighbors' heating fuel.

"Can you imagine German houses [going] cold in order to punish Russia?" asked Graham Allison, a Harvard scholar of international affairs. "I can't."

A battle over sanctions, he noted, could allow Putin to achieve another goal—using an energy crisis to drive a wedge through the NATO alliance.

The uncomfortable truth is that Putin, if only because of geography, has the advantage in this conflict.

He's willing to put troops on the ground, which makes his threats credible. The United States and its NATO allies are not.

"Militarily, Putin has the high card," Allison said. "He has a military that can fight and win."

The Russian leader may invade in the next few days, as Biden warned, or he may wait for another round of diplomacy to see what he can gain without war. Either way, he has an interest in keeping the crisis going.

"We're all looking for a solution. There's not going to be one," Fiona Hill, a White House adviser on Russia in the Trump administration, warned.

"The Russians know that if they keep the pressure up, by hook or by crook, in their view they'll find a way of getting what they want in Ukraine."

Which means Putin's confrontation with Ukraine and the West is likely to continue for a long time—whether he launches a full-scale invasion or not.

Russian grab of Belarus is the role model for Putin's plans for Ukraine

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

VILNIUS, Lithuania—Three cheers to the White House and NATO for calling out Kremlin lies this week about withdrawing troops from Ukraine's borders—along with falsehoods meant to justify a possible new attack on eastern Ukraine.

Yet even as the world focuses on Vladimir Putin's aggression against Ukraine, the Russian leader has managed to surreptitiously swallow neighboring Belarus, while the West wasn't paying sufficient attention. Indeed, Belarus has become the role model for what Putin would like to do with Ukraine and other sovereign states that were once under Soviet rule.

"Belarus is a laboratory for Putin," I'm told by Vytis Jurkonis, an expert on Belarus at Vilnius University, over breakfast at my hotel in the Lithuanian capital. In Vilnius, officials are watching closely what new experiments Putin conducts.

They tell me the Russian leader is testing whether the West will let him forcefully take over "neutral" countries—those supposedly linked neither to Western Europe nor to Russia—as Belarus once was and as Putin is demanding that Ukraine become.

30,000 troops

One reason I visited the Lithuanian capital is that it lies only 20 miles from the Belarus border. (You can see it from the revolving restaurant at the top of the Vilnius TV tower, three miles from the city center, and drive there in less than half an hour.)

Moscow moved 30,000 troops into Belarus this month, supposedly for military "exercises"—but in reality to threaten Kyiv, only 90 miles from the Belarus border. But these troops also present a dangerous new threat to NATO countries like Lithuania.

With Putin's troop movements, Russia's border has effectively moved east, flush up against the 420-mile border Lithuania shares with Belarus. "We don't believe [Putin's claims] that those troops will leave," I was told by Laurynas Kasciunas, chairman of the Lithuanian parliament's National Security Committee. "If Russian troops stay in Belarus, it is a big game changer for us."

That's because Putin can now set up new military bases in Belarus that would threaten the Baltic states and Poland. And Russian troops would be in perfect position to cut off all three Baltic states—Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia—from the rest of NATO.

Thus Putin has managed to successfully integrate a formerly independent buffer state into military (and economic) dependence on Russia, in full view of Western nations.

"We have to recognize we no longer have an independent Belarus, something which is very difficult to accept," I was told over lunch with Lithuanian Vice Minister Albinas Zananavicius. And Putin clearly hopes to emulate his Belarus achievement with Ukraine.

A stolen election

Putin has profited from the West's failure to deal with Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko, who, during most of his 27 years in power, maintained a degree of independence from Moscow. But when Lukashenko blatantly stole an astonishingly free presidential election in August 2020, and crushed a massive civil uprising protesting the fraud, he had to turn to Putin to save him. That opened the door for Putin to take full control.

To hear more about that takeover, I met with Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the courageous former English teacher and homemaker who ran against Lukashenko in August 2020. She made the decision to risk running, she told me, after her husband—a famous blogger and promising candidate—was thrown in prison.

"I was so angry," she told me when I asked her about her personal decision to risk running, as we sat in her Vilnius office. "It was my idea. I wasn't involved in political activities. I didn't think they would accept my candidacy, but they didn't catch the mood of the people. A new generation [that had traveled widely in Europe] didn't want to live as if they were in the old Soviet Union."

And a wider public was frustrated by Lukashenko's total failure to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Belarus officials threatened to jail her right after the election, which they claimed she lost despite strong indications from many local districts that she was the victor. As a result, Tsikhanouskaya fled to Vilnius, in order to protect her children. There, she seeks to keep the voice of the Belarus opposition voice alive, despite the exodus of many educated Belarusians, and the continuing brutal repression of protesters in prison. Her husband remains in a solitary cell with little contact with the outside world.

"He [Lukashenko] has to pay a price to Putin for his support," she says, about the Russian troop presence. "These exercises ... he has to do it to show the Kremlin he will do anything Putin says."

She wishes the West had sanctioned Lukashenko much sooner for stealing the election. She also believes he should have been sanctioned much more harshly for hijacking a RyanAir plane last May to remove a Belarus dissident from it, and for inviting Afghan and Iraqi refugees to the Belarus border in December 2021 to be used as weapons against Poland and Lithuania. The Belarus dictator did all this with Putin's full support (and Russia is helping him evade Western economic sanctions).

Putin's Belarus model for Ukraine?

Tsikhanouskaya knows that the Belarus model is a test of whether the United States and Western Europe will permit Putin to destroy nascent or developing democracies in East European countries that don't belong to NATO or the European Union.

"Russia needs to crush it [Belarus democracy]," says the academic Jurkonis, explaining that a Belarusian success story might have inspired Russia's democrat opposition at a time when Putin is mounting a severe crackdown against them. "It goes in line with what is happening in Ukraine. Putin wants Ukraine to fail. He wants to show that liberal democracy is a failure, not just in Eastern Europe but in Western Europe and the USA."

The message from Belarus, where the fight for democracy isn't over, is that the West cannot afford to let Putin use a variation of the Belarus model against Ukraine by seizing more territory, destroying its economy, or trying violently to install a pro-Russia leader.

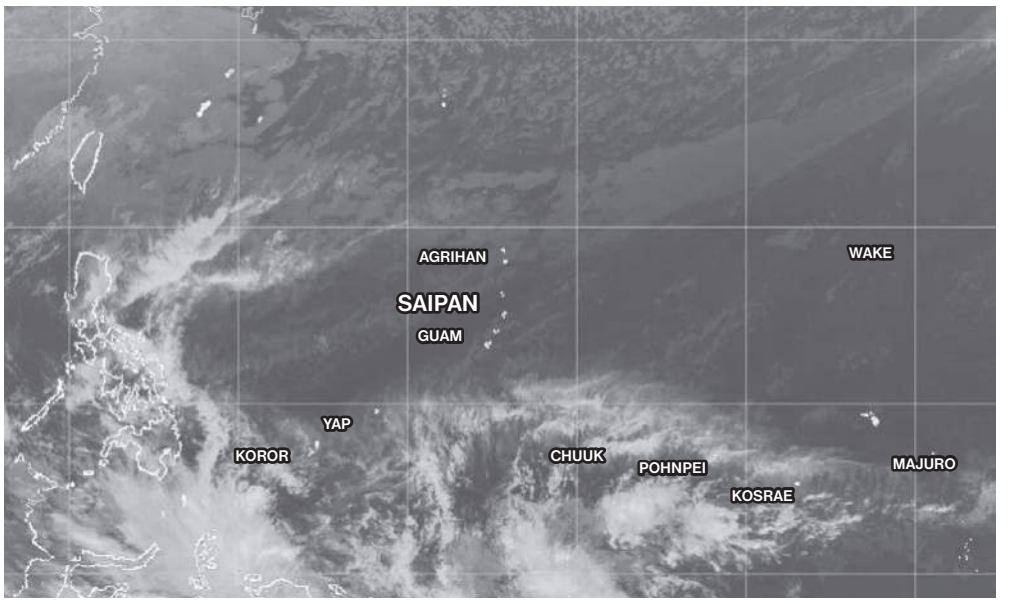
As Lithuanian officials told me, Putin has already changed the rules of post-World War II Europe by seizing Ukraine's Crimea and chunks of its Donbas region by force. His move on Belarus proves that his ambitions don't stop there.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East to northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
86º 76º	85º 76	86º 75º	86º 75º	85º 76º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:29 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A very weak shear line fragment is approaching Guam while Saipan sits in clearer skies to the north. Overnight ASCAT pegged trade-wind flow between 15 and 25 knots. Ritidian buoy shows combined seas of 8 to 10 feet, with most energy from the east-northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy/Wind	29 / 25 °F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	29 / 26 °F
Yap	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	30 / 27 °F
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 27 °F
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:37 AM	18:23 PM
Thursday	06:37 AM	18:23 PM
Friday	06:36 AM	18:23 PM
Saturday	06:36 AM	18:23 PM
Sunday	06:35 AM	18:24 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	00:20	11:55 PM	-
Thursday	01:22	12:51 PM	-
Friday	02:26	13:51 PM	-
Saturday	03:29	14:55 PM	-
Sunday	04:28	15:59 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	26 / 18 °F
Beijing	Sunny	6 / -7 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	14 / 9 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	28 / 21 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	11 / 6°F
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	14 / 3 °F
Manila	Mostly Cloud	33 / 24 °F
Melbourne	Scattered Thunderstorms	32 / 19 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	26 / 22 °F
New York	AM Clouds/PM Sun	18 / 0 °F
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	7 / -1 °F
Paris	Partly Cloudy	13 / 7 °F
Busan	Cloudy	5 / -4 °F
Rome	Sunny	19 / 3 °F
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	25 / 15 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	12 / 4 °F
Seoul	Sunny	1 / 11 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	9 / -1°F
Washington, DC	AM Showers	20 / 3 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:23 AM	High Tide	1.44
05:58 AM	Low Tide	0.79
11:50 AM	High Tide	1.74
7:12 PM	Low Tide	0.03

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 3, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA116	8:00am	8:46am	7
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2, 4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9307	9:00AM	Q2:30PM	4, 7
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Painless—even fun—ways to learn about money

By LIZ WESTON
NERDWALLET

The online landscape is littered with horrible personal finance advice: teenagers promoting day trading strategies, "influencers" flogging questionable investment schemes and people with dubious credentials insisting you shouldn't invest in a 401(K).

Outrageous statements and flashy graphics grab attention, but there's also plenty of sound, factually correct money content out there—and some of it is even entertaining. So if you want to learn more about managing your finances while having at least a little fun, here are some ways to go about it.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

If you want to learn more about managing your finances while having at least a little fun, here are some ways to go about it.

Audio worth listening to

With podcasts, you have a wealth of options (sorry, I couldn't resist). One to try is "Stacking Benjamins ," which a Fast Company article accurately describes as striking "a great balance of fun and functional." Former financial advisor Joe Saul-Sehy and certified financial planner Josh Bannerman mix news, banter and education with the help of regular contributors Paula Pant and Len Penzo, plus a wide variety of guests. (Full disclosure: I've been a guest on "Stacking Benjamins," among other podcasts, and I co-host "NerdWallet's Smart Money Podcast.")

Also, check out two public radio podcasts: "Planet Money," which explains how the economy works, and "This Is Uncomfortable," which describes itself as a podcast about life and how money messes with it. Public radio isn't known for being a laugh a minute, but high production values and good storytelling will keep you engaged.

If you like learning by listening, the social media app Clubhouse also might be worth exploring. This voice-only app allows you to listen and often participate in live conversations about a seemingly infinite number of topics. Consider starting with the Personal Finance Club. (Clubhouse started as invitation-only, but now is open to all.)

Of course, as with all social media, proceed with caution. Having a lot of followers doesn't mean someone is credible, honest or knowledgeable. Plenty of people pose as experts without the credentials or experience to actually be one. No one is required to disclose conflicts of interest, and your default assumption should be that what you're hearing or seeing may not be in your best interest.

Information or advice shared on social media is not customized to your unique circumstances, says CFP Lazetta Rainey Braxton of Brooklyn, New York. Research the ideas to ensure they make sense for your situation, and consider consulting an appropriate expert such as a tax pro, CFP or attorney, Braxton says.

What to watch

Suppose you're more of a visual learner. In that case, you'll find many credentialed experts to follow on Instagram, including CFP Brittney Castro and certified financial education instructor Bola Sokunbiof "Clever Girl Finance." But for sheer fun, it's hard to beat Berna Anat, also known as "Hey Berna," a financial educator whose professed goal is to make "financial literacy more funny, more accessible and more Brown for young people everywhere."

Anat and several other worthy Instagram creators such as "The Financial Diet" and "His and Her Money" are also on YouTube – along with a bunch of finance and investing channels spouting sketchy advice (often interrupted by even sketchier commercials).

Be wary of creators who pretend that making vast sums is easy or who promote risky strategies, such as options trading or borrowing money to buy volatile assets such as cryptocurrency, especially if you're new to investing.

Also, be skeptical of creators who aren't transparent about their financial situations or strategies, says Nashville-based CFP Jeff Rose, a blogger at "Good Financial Cents," who has hosted the Wealth Hacker channel on YouTube since 2011.

Many people claim to have spectacular financial success but are really trying to lure you into buying courses or other products that make money for them and are not in your best interest.

That's especially true on TikTok, where videos often last mere seconds , and bold claims about instant wealth seem to be the norm. Even here, though, some people are creating substantive, entertaining money content. Two to check out include Humphrey Yang (@humphreytalks) and Delyanne Barros (@delyannethemoneycoach).

Kick it old school

If books are your bag, you won't have to caffeinate yourself to get through the following personal finance tomes that lace their education with plenty of humor:

- "Stacked: Your Super-Serious Guide to Modern Money Management," by "Stacking Benjamins" host Saul-Sehy and co-author Emily Guy Birken.
- "Bad With Money: The Imperfect Art of Getting Your Financial Sh(asterisk)t Together," by comedian and LGBTQ activist Gaby Dunn.
- Any of the three books by Erin Lowry , including "Broke Millennial," "Broke Millennial Takes On Investing" and "Broke Millennial Talks Money."

One final recommendation: "The Richest Man in Babylon," by George S. Clason. This slender book of parables isn't funny, but it is entertaining, an easy read and amazingly relevant nearly 100 years after its first publication.

The ways we learn about money may change dramatically, but much of the best personal finance advice doesn't.

EU sanctions 22 Myanmar officials, gas company, over abuses

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Union on Monday imposed sanctions on several top officials in Myanmar and on a lucrative state-owned oil and gas company that has helped fund the military that overthrew the country's elected government a year ago.

The bloc imposed asset freezes and travel bans on 22 people and slapped restrictive measures on four entities, including state-owned and private companies.

Among those sanctioned was the state-owned Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), which is a joint venture partner in all offshore gas projects in Myanmar, including the Yadana gas field with Total Energies and Chevron. Last month, Total and Chevron said they were exiting Myanmar amid rampant human rights abuses committed by the military.

The sanctions on MOGE come after a long campaign by human rights groups within Myanmar and around the world, who argued that sanctioning MOGE would cut off a significant source of the military's funds. About 50% of Myanmar's foreign currency comes from natural gas revenues, with MOGE expected to earn $1.5 billion from offshore and pipeline projects in 2021-2022, according to a Myanmar government forecast.

Prior rounds of U.S. and European sanctions against the Myanmar military have excluded oil and gas. The Yadana field supplies gas to Myanmar and neighboring Thailand.

EU headquarters said in a statement that the bloc "is deeply concerned by the continuing escalation of violence in Myanmar and the evolution towards a protracted conflict with regional implications. Since the military coup, the situation has continuously and gravely deteriorated."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Explosion at huge Louisiana refinery; 6 minor injuries

GARYVILLE, La. (AP)—A huge Louisiana refinery was rocked by an explosion and fire Monday. Marathon Petroleum Corp. said six workers suffered minor injuries. Officials later gave the all-clear sign, but it was not immediately clear what caused the morning blast at the Marathon Petroleum Corp. plant in Garyville, between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Six contract workers were injured, Marathon spokesperson Joe Gannon said in an emailed statement. He said four were treated at the plant and three were treated and released at a health care facility where they were taken as a precaution. "The safety of responders, employees, contractors, and the community are our top priority, and we will conduct a full investigation to determine the cause of the fire," he wrote. According to Marathon's website, the facility along the Mississippi River has a refining capacity of 578,000 barrels per calendar day, making it one of the largest in the country.

Trump's social media app launches year after Twitter ban

NEW YORK (AP)—Former President Donald Trump's social media app that he hopes will rival Twitter launched Monday as he seeks a new digital stage to rally his supporters and fight Big Tech limits on speech, a year after he was banned from Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. His Truth Social app was offered for download from the Apple App Store to a limited number of subscribers who had preordered. Others who were added to a waiting list are to be given access over the next 10 days. The site encountered technical glitches shortly after launch, with reports that subscribers were shut out for hours. Others had trouble signing on. The site is not expected to be open to anyone who wants to download it until next month. "Due to massive demand, we have placed you on our waitlist," read a message to some of those trying to access the platform, adding, "We love you."

US Fed governor opens door to half-point rate hike in March

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Governor Michelle Bowman said Monday that she was open to lifting interest rates by more than the traditional quarter-point at the central bank's next meeting in March. Bowman's comments came after several officials on Friday pushed back against the idea of a half-point increase in the Fed's benchmark short-term interest rate. The Fed is looking to raise rates as inflation surged to 7.5% in January compared with a year earlier, the biggest increase in four decades. The debate over how quickly to raise interest rates is being closely watched by financial markets and also could have an impact on the broader economy. Many economists have said the Fed has moved too slowly in response to an unexpectedly persistent surge in prices, raising the risk that inflation could remain high. But if it raises rates too quickly, the Fed risks choking off growth and hiring.

Lawsuit: Amazon's unrealistic demands caused driver to crash

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—A North Carolina motorcyclist who lost a leg after a collision with an Amazon delivery truck has filed a lawsuit arguing that unrealistic expectations for the tech giant's delivery drivers have led to negligence. According to his lawsuit, filed in Norfolk Circuit Court in January, Justin Hartley was riding his motorcycle in Virginia Beach on Oct. 4 when a rented truck with an Amazon logo turned directly into his lane, The Virginian-Pilot reported. The truck hit Hartley, causing fractures to his left wrist and left leg. Doctors were unable to save his left leg and amputated it just below the knee, according to the lawsuit. The lawsuit alleges Amazon delivery driver Christopher Gill admitted to authorities that when the accident happened, he was looking down at GPS directions on his Amazon-supplied navigation device. "The unrealistic expectations that are put on the drivers are fueling these negligence cases," said Hartley's attorney, Kevin Biniazan.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Sheriff: Student fatally shot near bus stop; 4 detained

MARRERO, La. (AP)—A Louisiana high school student was fatally shot near a bus stop Monday, prompting deputies to detain four young people. Jefferson Parish Sheriff Joseph Lopinto said investigators didn't know a motive, or whether the shooting was random or the result of mistaken identity, news outlets reported. "I spoke with relatives and every indication from the people I've talked to was that this was a very good kid," he said during a news conference. "We're not getting any indication from speaking with community or family that he was a troubled kid." The victim, whose name was not immediately released, was shot about 7:30 a.m. He was a student at John Ehret High School in Marrero, across the Mississippi River from most of Jefferson Parish and neighboring New Orleans. Lopinto said three males and a female were being questioned. He declined to call them suspects.

Boy, 6, killed in drive-by shooting at park; 4 arrested

MCCOMB, Miss. (AP)—A drive-by shooting at a Mississippi park left a 6-year-old boy dead and four others wounded, authorities said. The victims were playing basketball when gunfire erupted Sunday, and McComb police arrested four people, age 17 to 19, on a murder charge, the Enterprise-Journal reported. Pike County Coroner Wally Jones told WLBT-TV that the shooting occurred about 4:50 p.m. Sunday. The boy died at Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center, he said. The newspaper identified those arrested as Malik Reed, 17, Bryan Cameron and Bryceon Thompson, both 18, and Yajari Jackson, 19. All face one count of capital murder and four counts of aggravated assault manifesting extreme indifference to human life. It was not immediately clear whether any of the suspects had lawyers who could comment on the charges. Authorities did not immediately release the ages of the four victims who were wounded.

Gov: Kentucky's death toll from December tornadoes now at 80

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—Kentucky's death toll from devastating tornadoes in December has risen as Gov. Andy Beshear on Monday announced the deaths of a woman and her infant. Beshear said during a news briefing that the 33-year-old Mayfield woman had been in the hospital for a significant period and died of her injuries. Her unborn child was delivered and died after six days in December, the governor said. "To their family, I know you've already grieved for that infant and now are grieving for her mother," Beshear said. "We grieve with you." Mayfield is the county seat of Graves County, where about two dozen people died in the storms, including several at a collapsed candle factory. Beshear said the state's revised death toll from the storms is now 80. All together, the storms killed more than 90 people in five states.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

March 9, 2022 | 5:00 PM
Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort, Saipan
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 03/09/2022 Agenda
4. Adoption of 12/29/2021 and 01/19/2022 Zoning Board Meeting minutes.
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. Conditional Use Application #2020-11154 – Blue Spot Corp. is proposing to occupy an existing structure to designate three (3) Service Areas for regular vehicles and **three (3)** Service Areas for Back Hoes for its "Vehicle Repair General" Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 550-8-R1 in the village of Afetna. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

2. Conditional Use Application #2020-11127 – Blue Spot Corp. is proposing to stage and occupy a Cargo Container measuring **40'** for its Office Use and a portion measuring **19'.8" (L) x 8' (W)** will be utilized for its "Institutional Residential" Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 550-8-R1 in the village of Afetna. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

3. Conditional Use Application #2020-11126 – Max Investments, LLC is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring **20'(L) x 20'(W)** to convert it int a Dry Shed for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 502 New-3-5 in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Rural.

4. Conditional Use Application #2020-11146 – CannaBlyss Inc. is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring **25'.1" (L) x 20'.11" (W)** for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot. No. 001-D-07 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core.

C. Old Business
1. Saipan Cares for Animals – Conditional Use Application No. 2020-8063
2. Triple Star International Corp. – Conditional Use Application No. 2020-9931

D. Executive Session

E. Miscellaneous
1. Administrator's Updates
2. Permit & Enforcement Report

F. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: https://zoom.us/j/6853007492
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Blue Spot Corp.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Blue Spot Corp. is proposing to stage and occupy a Cargo Container measuring 40' for its Office Use and a portion measuring **19'.8" (L) x 8' (W)** will be utilized for its "Institutional Residential" Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 550-8-R1 in the village of Afetna. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: March 9, 2022
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Fiesta Hall, Grandvrio Resort, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 8, 2022. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Perry Inos, Jr., Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

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/s/ Perry Inos, Jr., Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

CannaBlyss Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. CannaBlyss Inc. is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring **25'.1" (L) x 20'.11" (W)** for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot. No. 001-D-07 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: March 9, 2022
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/s/ Perry Inos, Jr., Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Max Investments, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Max Investments, LLC is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring **20'(L) x 20'(W)** to convert it int a Dry Shed for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 502 New-3-5 in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Rural.

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/s/ Perry Inos, Jr., Chairman

World

War fears grow as Putin orders troops to eastern Ukraine

MOSCOW (AP)—A long-feared Russian invasion of Ukraine appeared to be imminent Monday, if not already underway, with Russian President Vladimir Putin ordering forces into separatist regions of eastern Ukraine.

A vaguely worded decree signed by Putin did not say if troops were on the move, and it cast the order as an effort to "maintain peace." But it appeared to dash the slim remaining hopes of averting a major conflict in Europe that could cause massive casualties, energy shortages on the continent and economic chaos around the globe.

Putin's directive came hours after he recognized the separatist regions in a rambling, fact-bending discourse on European history. The move paved the way to provide them military support, antagonizing Western leaders who regard such a move as a breach of world order, and set off a frenzied scramble by the U.S. and others to respond.

Underscoring the urgency, the U.N. Security Council held a rare nighttime emergency meeting on Monday at the request of Ukraine, the U.S. and other countries. Undersecretary-General Rosemary DiCarlo opened the session with a warning that "the risk of major conflict is real and needs to be prevented at all costs."

Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, sought to project calm, telling the country: "We are not afraid of anyone or anything. We don't owe anyone anything. And we won't give anything to anyone."

The White House issued an executive order to prohibit U.S. investment and trade in the separatist regions, and additional measures—likely sanctions—were to be announced Tuesday. Those sanctions are independent of what Washington has prepared in the event of a Russian invasion, according to a senior administration official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity.

The State Department, meanwhile, said U.S. personnel in Lviv—in Ukraine's far west—would spend the night in Poland but return to Ukraine to continue their diplomatic work and emergency consular services. It again urged any American citizens in Ukraine to leave immediately.

The developments came during a spike in skirmishes in the eastern regions that Western powers believe Russia could use as a pretext for an attack on the Western-looking democracy that has defied Moscow's attempts to pull it back into its orbit.

Putin justified his decision in a far-reaching, pre-recorded speech blaming NATO for the current crisis and calling the U.S.-led alliance an existential threat to Russia. Sweeping through more than a century of history, he painted today's Ukraine as a modern construct that is inextricably linked to Russia. He charged that Ukraine had inherited Russia's historic lands and after the Soviet collapse was used by the West to contain Russia.

AP

Ukrainian border guard officers patrol the Ukrainian-Belarusian state border at a checkpoint in Novi Yarylovychi, Ukraine, Monday, Feb.21, 2022.

Boris Johnson scraps remaining COVID restrictions in England

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is scrapping the last domestic coronavirus restrictions in England, including the requirement for people with COVID-19 to self-isolate, even as he acknowledged Monday the potential for new and more deadly variants of the virus.

Johnson told lawmakers in the House of Commons that the country was "moving from government restrictions to personal responsibility" as part of a plan for treating COVID-19 like other transmissible illnesses such as flu.

He said it marked an end to "two of the darkest, grimmest years in our peacetime history."

"Today is not the day we can declare victory over COVID, because this virus is not going away," Johnson said at a televised news conference. "But it is the day when all the efforts of the last two years finally enabled us to protect ourselves whilst restoring our liberties in full."

Johnson

Johnson confirmed that mandatory self-isolation for people with COVID-19 will end starting Thursday and the routine tracing of infected people's contacts will stop. People will still be advised to stay home if they are sick—but will no longer get extra financial support.

Monday's announcement applies only to England, which is home to 56 million of the U.K.'s 67 million people. It leaves England with fewer restrictions than most other European countries, with the exception of Denmark.

Many people in England who think they have COVID-19 may now never know for sure. Starting April 1, lab-confirmed PCR tests for the virus will be available free only to older people and the immune-compromised. The government will also stop offering the public free rapid virus tests, though they will be available for purchase.

WORLD BRIEFS

Colombia's highest court legalizes abortion up to 24 weeks

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombia became the latest country in Latin America to expand access to abortion Monday as the nation's Constitutional Court voted to legalize the procedure until the 24th week of pregnancy. The decision by the tribunal of nine judges fell short of the expectations of pro-choice groups that had been pushing for abortion to be completely decriminalized in Colombia. But it was nevertheless described as a historic event by women's rights groups, which estimate 400,000 women get clandestine abortions in the country each year. Before the ruling, Colombia allowed abortions only when a woman's life was in danger, a fetus had malformations or a pregnancy resulted from rape. Now women in Colombia will be able to get abortions until the 24th week of their pregnancy without having to provide any justification. After the 24th week of pregnancy, abortion will still face restrictions.

Helicopter flying to pick up Philippine police chief crashes

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine police helicopter crashed Monday as it was flying to pick up the country's police chief on a resort island, killing a crew member and injuring the two pilots, officials said. The Airbus H125 helicopter went missing after taking off from Manila and was found two hours later to have crashed in Quezon province, police officials said. Police and firefighters reached the crash site and rescued the pilot and co-pilot, who were taken to a hospital with injuries, but the third crew member was pinned in the wreckage and died while rescuers were trying to revive him, they said. The single-engine helicopter was flying to Balesin island, an upscale beach and tropical resort in Quezon, to pick up national police chief Gen. Dionardo Carlos and his companions. Carlos was scheduled to fly back to Manila on a commercial flight to attend a flag-raising ceremony, but the flight became unavailable and the police aviation unit offered to take him by helicopter, police spokesperson Col. Jean Fajardo said.

Northern Europe battered by 3rd major storm; deaths hit 14

LONDON (AP)—Northern Europe has been battered by its third major storm in five days, with heavy rains and high winds killing at least two more people, disrupting travel and prompting hundreds of flood alerts across a region still recovering from last week's hurricane-force winds. Storm Franklin pushed in from the North Atlantic on Sunday afternoon even as crews worked to clear fallen trees and restore power to thousands of customers hit by storms Dudley and Eunice last week. Heavy rains and high winds swept across Northern Ireland and northern England on Monday before moving on to France. England's environment agency issued more than 300 flood warnings and alerts and train operators urged people not to travel. In France, a couple in their 70s died Sunday after their car was swept into the English Channel near a small town in Normandy. The couple had called for help but it did not reach them in time.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Remy Basa Sablan

08/19/1970 - 02/14/2022

In her new life, she now joins:

Great-Grandparents: Jose C. & Dolores B. Basa
Juan O. & Rita S. Sablan

Parents: Manuel S. & Maria B. Sablan
Consolacion B. Rupp

Sisters: Edna S. Sabang
Maria M. Rupp

Aunties/Uncles: Francisca Basa
Gregorio Jose Baza
Bernadita B. Mendiola
Juliana Baza
Annie F. Baza

Cousins: Frankie L. Baza, Jr.
Jerry B. Reyes

Grand Nephew: Caleb Read Benson
Jesus C. Reyes

Her spirits and memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Brother: Jason B. Rupp & family

Brother-in-law: Tim Sabang (Donavine (Sadie & Sage), Joseph, Manny (Maija & Matua), Tiana & Ruben (Noah, May'lana & Jhenesmae), and Renae)

Aunties/Uncles: Frank/Diana Baza & family, Dorothy/Larry Read & family, Jesus/Eloisa Reyes & family, Juan Baza & family, Donald Mendiola & family, Patricia/Richard Fetzer & family, Nora/Antonio Bornilla & family, Joseph/Danielle Acfalle & family, and Michael/Wendy Baza & family

Remy is also survived by numerous uncles, aunties, cousins, nieces, nephews and god children.

Daily Mass is offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. and San Jose Church at 6:00 p.m. until Thursday February 24, 2022. On Friday, February 25, 2022, her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to San Jose Church for public viewing at 8:00 a.m.– 9:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. We kindly encourage visitors to please wear a mask and observe social distancing.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Ginen I Familia

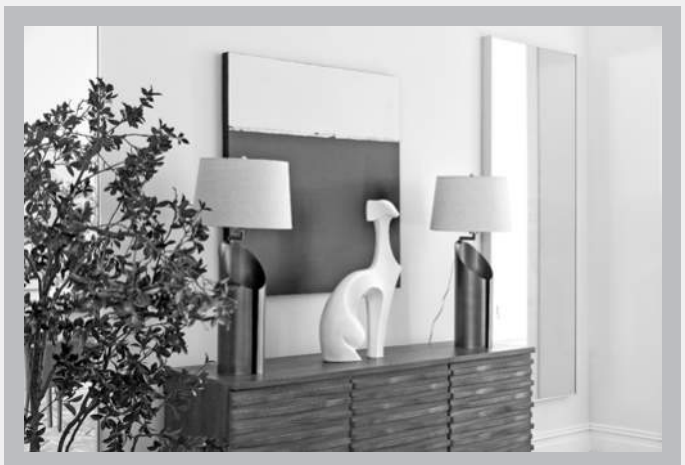
Good Housekeeping

10 accent elements to elevate your decor

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

From flowers to figurines and bowls to books, there are so many different ways to add and incorporate accents into a space. While you have a number of traditional choices, there are some unusual ones that may surprise you.

Here are some interesting accent elements to consider:



SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

A ceramic figurine creates a simple yet modern accent on a sideboard.

1 Figurines
Where you might place a small or tall vase, consider using a ceramic piece instead.

Jewelry placed on a stand creates an interest accent in a master bedroom. SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

2 Jewelry and global pieces
Jewelry may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think of an accent. However, jewelry can help to add an interesting, global element to a space.

A bookcase can also serve as a showcase for interesting accents and accessories. SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

3 Create a showcase for a few key accents
Whether a bookcase or a shelf, look for interesting ways to display accents and accessories.

An eclectic yet harmonious vignette makes a bold statement when placed on this coffee table. SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

4 Vignettes
Vignettes offer a prime opportunity for accents, by grouping them in interesting and dynamic ways.

5 Texture and color
Accents offer an opportunity to infuse both texture and color into a space.

A coffee table book placed on a book stand creates an interesting accent on a coffee table. SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

6 Books
Coffee table books can be used and displayed in different ways to help accessorize.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

An entry console serves as a prime location for the placement of accessories and accents, including greenery, candles and books.

10 Greenery
Greenery can provide the perfect pop of color or accent in a space. You can achieve this with greenery that is either real or artificial.

In lieu of artwork, a wall hanging has been placed to the left of a fireplace. SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

9 Wall hangings and alternatives to artwork
Wall hangings and mixed media can add a touch of wow factor to a space.

7 Organic elements
Wood and wood elements can provide an opportunity to bring global elements into a space.

8 Metallics
Introducing metallics can help bring in gold and silver to certain spaces in which you are looking to bring in as sense of contrast.

Life & Style

Pompeii: Rebirth of Italy's dead city that nearly died again

POMPEII, Italy (AP)—In a few horrible hours, Pompeii was turned from a vibrant city into an ash-embalmed wasteland, smothered by a furious volcanic eruption in A.D. 79.

Then in this century, the excavated Roman city appeared alarmingly close to a second death, assailed by decades of neglect, mismanagement and scant systematic maintenance of the heavily visited ruins. The 2010 collapse of a hall where gladiators trained nearly cost Pompeii its coveted UNESCO World Heritage Site designation.

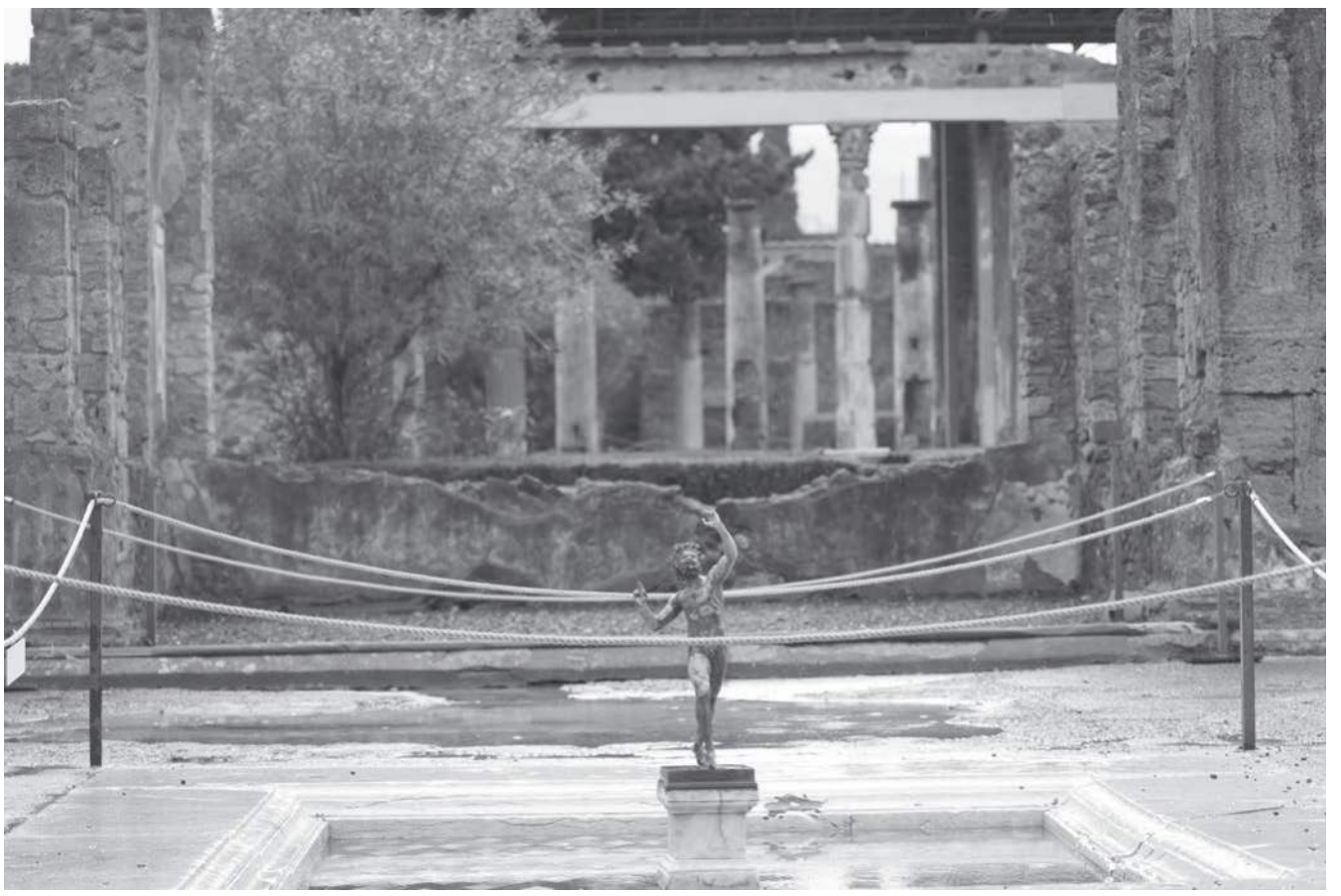
But these days, Pompeii is experiencing the makings of a rebirth.

Excavations undertaken as part of engineering stabilization strategies to prevent new collapses are yielding a raft of revelations about the everyday lives of Pompeii's residents, as the lens of social class analysis is increasingly applied to new discoveries.

Under the archaeological park's new director, innovative technology is helping restore some of Pompeii's nearly obliterated glories and limit the effects of a new threat: climate change.

Gabriel Zuchtriegel, an archaeologist who was appointed director general 10 months ago, likens Pompeii's rapid deterioration, starting in the 1970s, to "an airplane going down to the ground and really risking breaking" apart.

The Great Pompeii Project, an infusion of about 105 million euros ($120 million) in European Union funds—on condition it be spent promptly and effectively by 2016—helped spare the ruins from further degradation.



A statue of a Faunus is seen inside a house at the Pompeii archaeological site in southern Italy, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022. AP

"It was all spent and spent well," Zuchtriegel said in an interview on a terrace with Pompeii's open-air Great Theater as a backdrop.

But with future conservation problems inevitable for building remains first excavated 250 years ago, new technology is crucial in this "battle against time," the 41-year-old told The Associated Press.

Climate extremes, including increasingly intense rainfall and spells of baking heat, could threaten Pompeii.

"Some conditions are changing and we can already measure this," said Zuchtriegel.

Relying on human eyes to discern signs of climate-caused deterioration on mosaic floors and frescoed walls in about 10,000 excavated rooms of villas, workshops and humble homes would be impossible. So artificial intelligence and drones will provide data and images in real time.

Experts will be alerted to "take a closer look and eventually intervene before things happen, before we get back to this situation where buildings are collapsing," Zuchtriegel said.

Since last year, AI and robots are tackling what otherwise would be impossible tasks—reassembling frescoes that have crumbled into the tiniest of fragments. Among the goals is reconstructing the frescoed ceiling of the House of the Painters at Work, shattered by Allied bombing during World War II.

Robots will also help repair fresco damage in the Schola Armaturarum—the gladiators' barracks—once symbolizing Pompeii's modern-day deterioration and now celebrated as evidence of its revival. The weight of tons of unexcavated sections of the city pressing against excavated ruins, combined with rainfall accumulation and poor drainage, prompted the structure's collapse.

Seventeen of Pompeii's 66 hectares (42 of 163 acres) remain unexcavated, buried deep under lava stone. A long-running debate revolves on whether they should stay there.

At the start of the 19th century, the approach was "let's ... excavate all of Pompeii," Zuchtriegel said.

But in the decades before the Great Pompeii Project, "there was something like a moratorium—because we have so many problems we won't excavate any more," Zuchtriegel said. "And it was almost like, psychologically speaking, a depression."

His predecessor, Massimo Osanna, took a different approach: targeted digs during stabilization measures aimed at preventing further collapses.

"But it was a different kind of excavation. It was part of a larger approach where we have the combination of protection, research and accessibility," Zuchtriegel said.

After the gladiator hall's collapse, engineers and landscapers created gradual slopes out of the land fronting excavated ruins with netting, keeping the newly-shaped "hillsides" from crumbling.

Near the end of Via del Vesuvio, one of Pompeii's stone-paved streets, work in 2018 revealed an upscale domus, or home, with a bedroom wall decorated with a small, sensual fresco depicting the Roman god Jupiter disguised as a swan and impregnating Leda, the mythical queen of Sparta and mother of Helen of Troy.

But if visitors stand on tiptoe to look past the marvelous fresco over the home's jagged walls, they'll see how the back rooms remain embedded under the newly "stabilized" unexcavated edge of Pompeii.

Nearby is the most crowd-pleasing discovery to emerge from the shoring-up project—a corner "thermopolium" with a countertop setup similar to current salad-and-soup bar arrangements.

This fast-food locale is the only one discovered with frescoes in vivid hues of mustard-yellow and the omnipresent Pompeii red decorating the counter's base—apparently advertising the chef's specialties and including a bawdy graffito. Judging by the organic remains found in containers, the menu featured concoctions with ingredients like fish, snails and goat meat.

Quick street meals were likely a mainstay of the vast majority of Pompeiians not affluent enough to have kitchens.

Woman refuses to embrace ex-husband's reappearance

DEAR ABBY: I was married for 10 years before I found out my ex was living a double life—other women, children, etc. We divorced, and afterward, I provided the best possible life for our three children.

My ex was the typical deadbeat dad—never there for his children. Twelve years later, my children are adults, and he has decided to show up and start a relationship with them. Anytime they have milestones with church, college, jobs, weddings, etc., he is there.

I have stepped back and let them decide what kind of relationship they want with him. Even worse, my ex has also rekindled his relationship with my parents and siblings. He's turning my family against me, although we have both remarried. When I try to talk to them about it, they say, "I'm sorry you feel that way," "He's changed," "Why can't you forgive him?"

Abby, my ex stole his business partner's money to live his double life. If he has "changed," why is he once again trying to turn my family against me? What do I do? Must I divorce myself from my parents and siblings?

NEVER RID OF HIM

DEAR NEVER RID: A man who lives a double life, neglects his responsibilities as a parent and steals from his business partner without trying to make amends to ALL of them doesn't appear to have "changed." Your children, parents and siblings have "chosen" to forgive and welcome him back into the fold regardless of how it affects you. (He must be one heck of a salesman.)

It's time to look into your heart and decide how much of this togetherness (!) you can tolerate. Some discussions with a licensed mental health professional could be helpful in this regard. If, after that, you conclude that less contact with your parents and siblings under these circumstances would be healthier for you, then do what is best for yourself.

***

DEAR ABBY: My stepson is being released from prison after assaulting his 9-year-old stepdaughter in my home. He plans on living here with us, with his dad's blessing. A few years ago, I was sexually assaulted, and I still suffer from PTSD because of it. It's getting worse as the release date approaches.

My stepson has problems with drugs and alcohol as well as anger issues. He expects us to pay for whatever he wants. We have spent a third of our retirement money on his legal expenses, and there are no plans for him to pay us back. He has mistreated my dog several times, and I do not trust him.

Am I wrong for not wanting him in my home? My husband has turned a deaf ear to my concerns. I guess blood is thicker than water.

DREADING IT IN THE WEST

DEAR DREADING IT: Trust your instincts. Because your husband has chosen to ignore your concerns about his son living with you, the time has come for you to take care of yourself. Consult an attorney about protecting whatever assets you still have before they are completely depleted, take your dog and get out of there NOW. Believe me, you have my sympathy.

DEAR ABBY

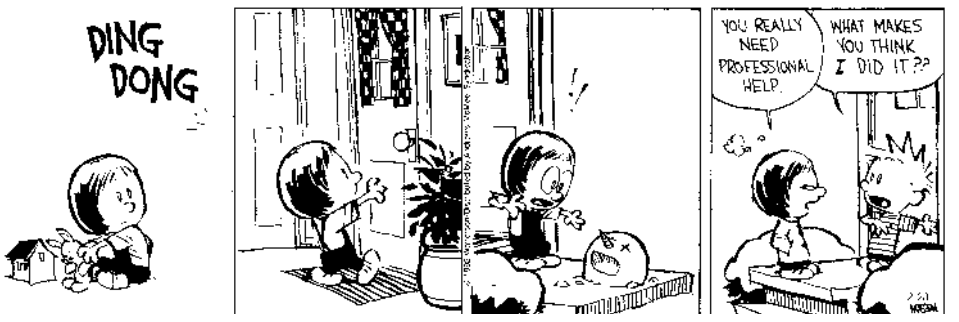
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

GOOD EVENING, CATS AND KITTENS!
I'M NOT SAYING ODIE IS STUPID...
BUT HE PUTS STAMPS ON HIS EMAILS! THANK YOU!
MEOW CLAP CLAP MEOW MEOWR
MEYOWR MEE-OW CLAP CLAP CLAP

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I PULLED YOU OVER BECAUSE THIS CAR IS REPORTED AS STOLEN.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. IT'S MY DAD'S CAR, AND HE LOANED IT TO ME WHILE MINE IS IN THE SHOP.
I KNOW. HE'S EAGER TO GET IT BACK BECAUSE HE WANTS TO GO BUY A CHEESEBURGER.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 TV schedule abbr.
4 — -la-la
7 Repast
8 Uses an old phone
10 Craze
11 Eventually
13 "What a thrill!"
16 Pep
17 Japanese city
18 Half of CXII
19 "Phooey!"
20 Author Uris
21 Express a view
23 Like snake eyes
25 New Mexico resort
26 Refuses to
27 Mel of Coopers-town
28 Serengeti grazer
30 Tree fluid
33 "Very funny!"
36 Lady Liberty, e.g.
37 Black — spider
38 Aromas
39 Novelist Hunter
40 "Me time" resort
41 German article

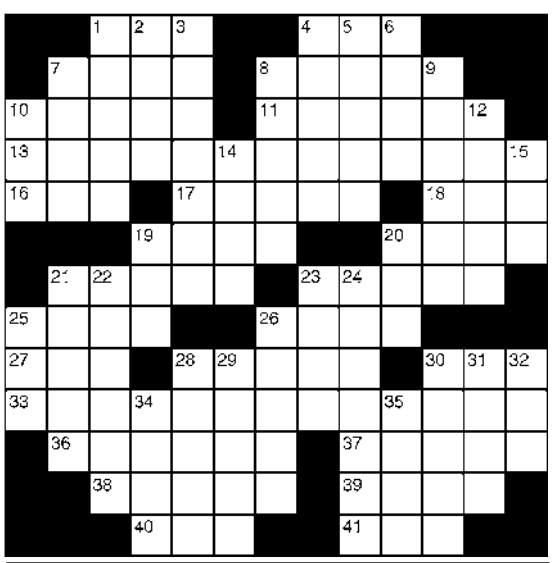
DOWN

1 Coffee break hr.
2 Lure
3 Nome resident
4 Color lightly
5 Proportion
6 Landed
7 Hawaiian fish, on menus
8 Mason- — Line
9 Showed pleasure
10 "True Life" network
12 Delegate
14 Literary Jane
15 Martini ingredient
19 Insult, slangily
20 Long. crosser
21 Solemn promises
22 Spud
23 U2 lead singer
24 Provided with funds
25 Preschooler
26 Salary
28 Bar legally
29 "Ozark" actress Linney
30 Fizzy drinks
31 Unsigned (Abbr.)
32 Church seat
34 Tiny amounts
35 Prima donna

Solution time: 23 mins.

B	A	C	H		A	I	F		M	A	T	A		
U	G	L	I		P	E	A		E	L	A	L		
B	E	A	P		P	E	N	E	L	O	P	E		
F	E	N	P	A	L	S		V	O		E	S		
			I	R	F		M	F	K					
B	R	I	E	F		P	E	N	S		V	E		
O	T	O			M	A	X			L	A	T		
P	E	N	I	A	U	S		C	E	L	L	S		
			R	M	S		B	O	K					
S	T	O	C	P		P	E	N	A	L	T	Y		
P	E	N	U	M	B	R	A		M	I	R	O		
A	L	E	G		E	O	N		E	R	I	K		
T	E	S	H		G	M	S		L	E	G	O		

Yesterday's answer 2-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dakota Fanning, 28; Niecy Nash, 52; Kristin Davis, 57; Patricia Richardson, 71.

Happy Birthday: Put pressure on time-sensitive matters this year to avoid setbacks. Staying on top of your plan is your ticket to success. Calculate and put your money where it brings the highest return. Refuse to put others first when it can negatively affect something important to you. Strive for completion and perfection. Live life your way. Your numbers are 9, 15, 22, 24, 37, 40, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Put your differences aside, and focus on what's important and how you can reach your goal. Connect with people who offer insight in areas where you lack information. Combining your skills and knowledge with others' will achieve the best results. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Be careful who you trust when dealing with sensitive issues. Someone will make assumptions and offer an exaggerated opinion. Do the legwork yourself. Be resourceful, direct and cautious regarding how you proceed. Actions speak louder than words. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You can tie things together by researching your objective. Don't trust what others tell you; firsthand information from an expert will ensure you get things right and avoid a glitch that can be costly. Trust in your ability to get things done. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Do the work yourself; if you count on someone else, you will be disappointed in the results. Speak from the heart, be honest and fair, and don't be afraid to express how you feel to someone you love. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A little socializing will lift spirits, but you will pay the price if you overdo it. Put a limit on your spending, and stick to healthy options that benefit you mentally, physically and emotionally. Share ideas and plans with someone special. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Stick to the truth, or prepare to explain any discrepancy. Choose your words carefully, and be prepared to back the gestures you make. Change can be positive if you go about it properly. Keep those affected by your plans in the loop. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be bold and express your true feelings. Share ideas, network and make plans. Taking on something that is cost-efficient will add to your knowledge and experience, and encourage you to reassess your options. Take control instead of being controlled. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* What you want to do and what you should do will conflict. Stop fretting, and put a schedule in place that will accommodate both. It's up to you to set things up to suit your needs. Be original and have faith. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't be fooled by emotionally manipulative situations. Know when to say no from situations and people who aren't to your benefit. Use your intelligence to navigate your way through encounters that can affect your well-being. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make decisions before someone makes them for you. Look at change as a learning experience, and delve into situations with an open mind. A unique offer will have more substance than you think. Don't rule out an opportunity to change direction. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Sensitive issues will surface, but consider the consequences before you get entangled in something brought on by someone else. It's OK to take a pass and focus on something that interests or benefits you personally. Protect your emotional well-being. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take charge and get things done. The difference you make will draw attention and support to carry on with your plans. Use your ingenuity, strength and courage to do what you feel is right. The people you touch will show gratitude. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are forceful, unique and demonstrative. You are persuasive and charming.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	3	7	9	5		
7						2	
5		2	1	6			7
1	9			3			6
3	5			2			4
6	7			5			2
7		6	2		1	4	
	5						
	6	9					

Difficulty Level ★★★

2/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	3	8	9	7	6	1	2	5
7	6	5	1	3	2	4	9	8
2	1	9	5	4	8	3	6	7
8	4	2	7	6	9	5	3	1
9	5	3	8	2	1	7	4	6
6	7	1	3	5	4	2	8	9
5	2	7	6	8	3	9	1	4
3	9	6	4	1	5	8	7	2
1	8	4	2	9	7	6	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LET'S REMINISCE **Solution: 11 letters**

P	L	A	C	E	S	E	R	U	T	N	E	V	D	A
R	C	L	L	E	V	A	R	T	E	E	W	S	C	N
A	K	S	A	I	N	D	U	L	G	E	Y	C	E	O
D	O	C	E	C	C	Y	C	L	E	A	O	E	S	I
N	O	R	I	C	E	I	L	E	D	M	V	E	O	T
E	B	O	B	T	N	R	S	N	P	I	M	V	C	C
L	P	M	R	O	E	E	E	L	V	I	S	E	I	E
A	A	U	R	M	I	D	I	E	T	N	L	(N)	A	N
C	R	H	M	R	L	S	R	R	O	F	(O)	T	L	N
I	C	U	O	O	H	E	O	I	E	(T)	V	V	I	O
S	S	M	O	M	L	T	T	R	(E)	P	E	I	Z	C
U	E	H	E	I	E	O	S	E	N	D	X	D	E	H
M	C	N	V	A	M	S	G	N	I	D	D	E	W	I
S	T	E	R	E	T	H	G	U	A	L	A	O	T	L
I	O	S	T	F	I	G	N	I	R	A	H	S	N	L

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Accomplishment, Adventures, Calendar, Chill, Chronicle, Cite, Connection, Cycle, Emotions, Event, Experiences, Gifts, Humor, Indulge, Laughter, Love, Memories, Music, Note, Olden Days, Places, Recall, Reflect, Relive, Revive, School, Scrapbook, Send, Sharing, Socialize, Stories, Summer, Sweet, Tears, Times, Travel, Videos, Weddings

Yesterday's Answer: Discoveries

Treasuries 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 47 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

When the All-Star break ends, the NBA's stretch run begins

CLEVELAND (AP)—When the All-Star break ends, the stretch run begins.

There isn't much time left in the NBA season. The All-Star weekend came at about the 60-game mark for teams, far beyond the midpoint of the 82-game schedule. It's a sprint to the finish now, and the Brooklyn Nets and Los Angeles Lakers have to prove they have the legs to make a run.

The Nets could have Kevin Durant and Ben Simmons on the floor soon to spark a surge. But the Lakers might be without Anthony Davis for more than a month because of a foot injury, putting a heavy burden on LeBron James.

Injured and inconsistent, neither team is a sure thing to even make the postseason. Both have performed far below expectations, with the Lakers only 27-31. But poor play in the winter is quickly forgotten if a team warms up come springtime, just as the Milwaukee Bucks did last year.

"As a team, we started playing good basketball towards the end," Giannis Antetokounmpo said. "Maybe we can do it again. Who knows? We're in a good place. We have a hell of a team."

The Bucks are actually only in fifth place, but that means little in the tightly packed Eastern Conference. Miami and Chicago are tied at the top, surprising Cleveland and Philadelphia are 2 1/2 games back and Milwaukee is just percentage points behind them.

There's more separation out West, where Phoenix has pulled away to a 6 1/2-game lead over Golden State by winning seven straight to run its record to 48-10.

AP

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, top, celebrates as Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (6) greets Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo after hitting a shot to win the NBA All-Star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022, in Cleveland.

Even those teams have concerns, with Phoenix bracing for a lengthy absence for Chris Paul and Golden State still going without Draymond Green because of a back injury.

The Nets hope their injury issues are almost over. Durant is nearing a return after missing a month with a sprained left knee ligament, though coach Steve Nash said he isn't expecting the All-Star forward to be ready when they resume their season Thursday against Boston.

Injuries are a part of every season, but the usual problems this season were compounded for some teams by the coronavirus. An outbreak within the Nets contributed to them deciding to bring the unvaccinated Kyrie Irving back part time even though he still can't play in home games. The Atlanta Hawks lost nine of 12 games during one rough stretch in December, having to sign multiple players just to field a team while their regulars were out.

They have been trying to climb out of that hole and are 10th in the East a year after reaching the Eastern Conference finals.

"At one point it was crazy. Like, just going out there and not knowing any of your teammates besides two of them," All-Star Trae Young said. "It was different, but like the world might not always, always see that and see the struggle early on and understand that's the reason. So now that we're here, we're starting to pick things up and guys are getting healthy. It's going to be good for us if we keep it going."

The play-in helps them. For the second straight year, the teams in the Nos. 7-10 spots will play for the final two postseason spots in each conference. Right now, both the eighth-place Nets and ninth-place Lakers would find themselves there.

There's still time to climb, but not much.

Some other things to watch down the stretch:

PAUL'S PAIN

The All-Star point guard injured his right thumb in the Suns' final game before the break and had a soft cast covering it this weekend. He could miss the rest of the regular season.

"We have to figure it out," fellow All-Star Devin Booker said. "Everybody has to give a little bit more. I look at the beauty in it. He gets to rest his legs. He gets to get ready for a long postseason that we're trying to make happen. So we got to hold it down without him. We got to hold the fort down."

MVP RACE

Denver's Nikola Jokic has a strong case to win a second straight MVP award and Antetokounmpo could win his third. They both might be chasing 76ers center Joel Embiid, the league's leading scorer with 29.6 points per game who gets an All-Star sidekick this week when James Harden debuts after being swapped for Simmons.

"Well, I don't really want to push for the whole thing, but the way I've been playing speaks for itself," Embiid said, "especially with everything we went through, the drama this whole year, and obviously missing a big piece, and everything we added to our team and the way our team is set up."

SURPRISES OF THE SEASON

All-Star Ja Morant has fueled Memphis to a 41-19 record and third place in the West, while Cleveland is an unexpected 35-23. They don't have any postseason polish, but Green doesn't think that will hurt the young teams.

"We won a championship my third year," he said, referring to the Warriors' 2015 title. "The majority of us were going into that playoffs 15 to 20 playoff games in our career and we were able it win a championship. So I don't view the inexperience as a problem."

IN THE EAST

Miami made a run to four straight NBA titles from 2011-14 when James was there, but the conference wasn't nearly as deep as it appears this season.

"It's compelling in the East right now. If you have real competitors, that's what you want," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "You want to be challenged, you want to be pushed and see how your team stacks up against the other best teams. That's what it's all about and there's some great teams in the East."

AND IN THE WEST

Is it as wide open in the other conference?

"No, we're going to win it," Green said. "Seriously."

Michigan's Howard suspended 5 games for Wisconsin melee

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)—Michigan basketball coach Juwan Howard has been suspended the final five games of the regular season and fined $40,000 for hitting a Wisconsin assistant in the head, triggering a postgame melee.

The Big Ten Conference also on Monday suspended three players one game for the altercation following the Badgers' 77-63 win on Sunday: Michigan's Moussa Diabate and Terrance Williams II, and Jahcobi Neath of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin coach Greg Gard was fined $10,000 for violating the conference's sportsmanship policy, but was not suspended. Howard is expected to be back for the Big Ten tournament, which begins March 9 in Indianapolis.

"After taking time to reflect on all that happened, I realize how unacceptable both my actions and words were, and how they affected so many," Howard said Monday in a statement released by the university. "I am truly sorry."

Phil Martelli will serve as Michigan's interim coach in Howard's absence. Michigan's final five regular-season games are home contests with Rutgers on Wednesday, No. 15 Illinois on Sunday, Michigan State on March 1 and No. 25 Iowa on March 3 plus a visit to No. 22 Ohio State on March 6.

"Big Ten Conference coaches and student-athletes are expected to display the highest level of sportsmanship conduct," Big Ten Commissioner Kevin Warren said in a statement. "I am grateful for the partnership with Michigan Athletics Director, Warde Manuel and Wisconsin Athletics Director, Chris McIntosh. Our expectation is that the incident yesterday will provide our coaches and student-athletes with the opportunity to reflect, learn and move forward in a manner that demonstrates decorum and leadership on and off of the court."

Howard, a former NBA player and the reigning Associated Press men's coach of the year, was upset after Gard called a timeout with 15 seconds left and his team leading by 15 on Sunday.

The altercation began in the postgame handshake line, when Gard grabbed Howard by the arm in an attempt to explain why he called the timeout. Howard yelled "Don't (expletive) touch me!" and put his right index finger in Gard's face as the two began to argue.

"At that point, I felt it was time to protect myself," Howard said in his postgame news conference.

After the two coaches were separated, Howard swung his right hand and struck Wisconsin assistant Joe Krabbenhoft on the left side of the head with an open hand.

"Someone touched me and I think it was very uncalled for, for them to touch me, as we were verbalizing and communicating with one another," Howard said Sunday. "That's what escalated it."

Players from each side got involved in the skirmish, and video appeared to show Diabate and Neath throwing punches.

In his statement Monday, Howard apologized to Krabbenhoft as well as Michigan's players and their families, his staff, his own family and "Michigan fans around the world."

"I speak a lot about being a Michigan man and representing the University of Michigan with class and pride," Howard said. "I did not do that, nor did I set the right example in the right way for my student-athletes. I will learn from this mistake, and this mistake will never happen again. No excuses!"

Gard said Sunday he took the timeout because his backup players had four seconds to get the ball across half court and he wanted to reset the clock to 10 seconds.

"Maybe he doesn't know the rule, that you get the 10 seconds reset," Gard said. "I wasn't going to put my players in that type of situation, to have to break a press in four seconds coming in cold off the bench. I wouldn't do that for a regular group. I can take a timeout. That gives my players the best chance to have success. So that's where it started. He said, 'I'll remember that. I'll remember that.' I said, 'Hey, let me tell you why I did.' He didn't want any part of that."

Wisconsin athletic director Chris McIntosh said after the game that the Badgers had staff members who were "affected and injured," during the altercation.

MLB makes slight moves as threat to openers intensifies

JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—Baseball negotiations resumed with new intensity Monday in an effort to salvage opening day, and owners made a pair of slight moves toward locked-out players but put off big-ticket bargaining issues until later.

With a week or perhaps a little more time left to preserve openers on March 31, union head Tony Clark attended negotiations for the first time since since the work stoppage began on Dec. 2.

New York Mets stars Max Scherzer and Francisco Lindor were among 10 players who were at a pair of sessions during a five-hour span. In contrast to the union leaders Tom Glavine and David Cone during the 1994-95 strike, none of these players spoke publicly.

MLB increased its offer of a bonus pool for pre-arbitration players by $5 million to $20 million that would go to 30 top players, a fraction of the $115 million for 150 players the union has asked for.

Clubs also increased their proposal for a lottery for the amateur draft from the top three picks to the top four. Players have asked for the top eight.

Teams also dropped their proposal to have the flexibility to decrease domestic minor league contracts along with a plan to limit optional assignments to five per player each season. The union opposed the minor league proposal and asked for a limit of four options.

AP

Signs are posted outside Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, Fla., Monday, Feb. 21, 2022. Baseball labor negotiations moved to the spring training ballpark from New York as players and owners join the talks, which enter a more intensive phase with perhaps a week left to

The previous time the sides met, they talked for only 15 minutes on Thursday. This time, the parties described the discussions as candid and productive, but the union interpreted the slight moves as disappointing,

MLB canceled spring training games from Feb. 26 through March 4 and has told the union a deal is needed by Feb. 28 for opening day to come off as scheduled. Players have not said whether they agree that is a deadline, and past practice indicates a deal could be reached in early March that would allow sufficient training time.

The session was just the seventh on core economics during the lockout, and talks are to continue at 1 p.m. Tuesday, when the second-longest stoppage in baseball history will be in its 83rd day. Until now the sides have bargained on consecutive days just once during the lockout.

Players are angry that payrolls last year dropped to their lowest level since 2015, and they want new mechanisms in the agreement to spur competition — and spending.

Teams have told the union they will not increase salary arbitration eligibility, will not decrease revenue sharing and will not add new methods for players to accrue service time, which players said are needed to prevent teams from holding players back to delay free agency.

Clubs also say they won't make new proposals on luxury tax thresholds and rates until the late stages of talks.

The Cardinals' Paul Goldschmidt, the Yankees' Jameson Taillon, the Reds' Sonny Gray, the Royals' Whit Merrifield, the Twins' Taylor Rogers, the Brewers' Brent Suter and the Mets' Brandon Nimmo also were among the players at bargaining in Roger Dean Stadium, the vacant spring training home of St. Louis and the Miami Marlins.

The site of negotiations is about 3 miles from the home of Scherzer, among the eight players on the union's executive subcommittee. Lindor and the Astros' Jason Castro also attended from the executive subcommittee

Clark and the players conferred with Bruce Meyer, the union's chief negotiator, in the right field parking lot before entering the ballpark.

Colorado Rockies CEO Dick Monfort, chairman of the owners' labor policy committee, was on hand along with San Diego Padres vice chairman Ron Fowler, the immediate past chair of the committee. Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred was not present, and the MLB delegation was headed by Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem, the clubs' lead negotiator.

Players spoke directly to owners during the session. They had for the most part not attended bargaining in large numbers in person, partly because of the pandemic. They previously joined in Denver last August and in Irving, Texas, just before the expiration of the five-year labor contract.

Until now, all talks during the lockout had been in New York at the offices of MLB and the players' association. The union asked they be shifted to Florida so players could attend without disrupting their pre-spring training workouts.

Big league spring training failed to start on time last Wednesday due to baseball's ninth work stoppage, its first since 1995.

Outgoing GM Colbert: Steelers will add QB depth in offseason

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Kevin Colbert is ready to get on with the next chapter of his life.

The longtime Pittsburgh Steelers general manager has one more massive item left to do before stepping down in May: find a replacement for Ben Roethlisberger.

While Colbert said Monday that longtime backup Mason Rudolph would be the starting quarterback if the season began next week, he anticipates adding some competition to the mix in the coming months through either the draft or free agency or perhaps a mix of both.

Colbert stressed the front office and coaching staff have "confidence" in Rudolph and are "excited to see what's next" and praised Dwayne Haskins, who "did some nice things" in practice and exhibition games during his first year with the club.

However Colbert acknowledged there will likely be one or two more players thrown into the mix by the time organized team activities begin in May.

The Steelers have the 20th overall pick in the draft following a 9-7-1 season that ended with a blowout loss to Kansas City in the opening round of the playoffs. While Colbert allowed the depth of this year's incoming quarterback class is thin by comparison, he believes there is quality at the top end, a group that includes former Pitt star Kenny Pickett.

Colbert and Steelers coach Mike Tomlin got a chance to monitor Pickett regularly during his five seasons with the Panthers — who share a practice facility with the Steelers — and took an up-close look at Pickett at the Senior Bowl. Colbert praised Pickett's progress, but pointed out the top end of the quarterback class provides a unique mix.

Pickett is more of a traditional pocket passer — though he can certainly make plays with his legs as evidenced by his 58-yard touchdown run in the ACC championship game against Wake Forest — while North Carolina's Sam Howell, Ole Miss' Matt Corral and Liberty's Malik Willis each bring a different dynamic to the position.

"They're all different and I know some of them will be starting quarterbacks, winning quarterbacks, and that's exciting," Colbert said.

Colbert also downplayed the big-picture significance of the team hiring former Miami Dolphins head coach Brian Flores as a senior defensive assistant in charge of the linebackers.

Flores, who is Black, filed a class-action lawsuit against the NFL and three teams earlier this month alleging racist hiring practices. Flores has no plans of dropping the litigation, though Colbert stressed Tomlin's decision to bring Flores on board was motivated specifically by what Flores can bring to the organization.

"When (Tomlin) brought Coach Flores' name up as a potential (candidate) I was excited about it because Coach Flores is a successful defensive coordinator and head coach.

"The thing that's really intriguing about Brian is he also started off in the personnel world. So I'm excited to get with him and see what kind of ideas he can bring us, both from a coaching viewpoint as well as a personnel viewpoint."

The relationship between Colbert and Flores — and Colbert and the rest of the staff and front office — will change in May when he officially steps down following more than two decades with the organization, a run that's included two Super Bowl victories and a trip to another.

Colbert said he told Tomlin last spring that 2021 would be his final season on the job, but hopes to remain involved in a yet-to-be-determined advisory-type role. He is actually leading the search for his successor. Colbert and team president Art Rooney II have already interviewed at least a half-dozen candidates, including Steelers vice president Omar Khan and pro personnel coordinator Brandon Hunt.

The goal is to finish up what Colbert termed "preliminary interviews" by early March then move on to the next round after the draft.

"I think as we go through this, we understand there is a lot of capable people," Colbert said.

There will be some critical decisions that will be made by the time Colbert's replacement is named. The team needs to decide whether to pick up inside linebacker Devin Bush's fifth-year option by early May.

Bush, whom the Steelers acquired after trading up to 10th in the 2019 draft, struggled in 2021 after returning from a torn ACL in his left knee. Colbert said while Bush can certainly play better he also anticipates Bush taking a step forward in 2022.

The status of defensive lineman Stephon Tuitt — who missed all of 2021 after undergoing knee surgery while also grappling with the death of his younger brother in a hit-and-run accident last summer — is uncertain.

"We're very open to (continuing) to help him," Colbert said. "We'll continue to evaluate that position and his availability to us, and we just hope for the best for him as he tries to come back and be a part of the Pittsburgh Steelers."

UOG baseball returns this week after 20 years

After 20 years in the dugout, the University of Guam Tritons Baseball Team will return to the diamond this week at the "University of Guam 70th Anniversary Celebration Tritons Baseball Invitational" at the Paseo Stadium in Hagåtña.

The two-weekend tournament will kick off with an opening ceremony at 6:30pm on Friday to honor the baseball members of the Triton Athletics Hall of Fame. Following the ceremony, the first pitches will be thrown by special guests Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, former UOG president Robert Underwood, and Richard Martinez — who was known as the most powerful hitter in Guam during his time.

TRITONS BASEBALL

Coach Roke Alcantara Jr., left, throws the ball to student-athlete McHiver Williams during the University of Guam baseball tryouts held Dec. 5 on the George Washington High School baseball field.

"This is a significant moment for us. We're looking forward to honoring the Triton baseball players of the past and welcoming this new generation of Tritons as they step up to the plate," said UOG Athletics Director Doug Palmer. "We're excited to show the community that baseball is back at UOG."

Four teams will compete in the tournament: the Tritons, Dodgers, Amigos, and the Guam Junior National Team.

The Tritons are led by coach Roke Alcantara Jr., who has more than 30 years of experience playing baseball and 10 years of coaching experience.

"Baseball in Guam is coming back stronger than ever despite the pandemic challenges," Alcantara said. "I am glad that we are able to re-launch our UOG baseball program, and I am grateful for our student-athletes, UOG administrators, and our partner sponsors. We are ready to play ball!"

The first weekend of the tournament will follow a round-robin format, where each team plays each other once. The second weekend will follow a double-elimination format starting on Friday, March 4, with the championship game scheduled for 7pm on Sunday, March 6. If both championship game teams end up with one loss after the championship game, the teams will play another game on Friday, March 11, to determine the winner.

All games will have seven innings except for the championship games, which will have nine innings. Trophies will be given to the champion team and runner-up teams. The Most Valuable Player and the All-Tournament Team—the top 10 players of the tournament—will be recognized and presented with an award.

Players, umpires, administrative officials, and spectators must show proof of vaccination upon entry. Adults will be charged a $3 entrance fee, non-UOG students will be charged $2, and UOG students are free of charge. Each game is limited to 100 spectators.

All UOG games will be recorded and posted on the Triton Athletics YouTube channel. Fans can also tune into the Triton Sports Zone video podcast to stay up to date with the latest athletics news, watch exclusive athlete interviews, and learn about upcoming events and games. The podcast episodes are live at 6pm every Thursday on the Triton Athletics Facebook channel.

For more information or questions about the tournament, contact UOG Athletics Director Doug Palmer at palmerd@triton.uog.edu or (671) 735-2862. ***(PR)***

NMI

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be nice to get results or win. However, it is more important how we build and develop NMI football and the team using this opportunity (having friendlies with Guam). These matches and the training camp will allow us to continue working to improve the NMI national team's style of play," said Mita.

The NMI completed the first two friendlies (U20 and men's matches) against the hosts over the weekend and was scheduled to have the second men's national match last Tuesday night, while the series will conclude today with the U20 crew taking on their counterparts in the 7:30pm game.

"Playing against Guam or any other country gives our players the opportunity to learn different standards in international and domestic football. What usually works on Saipan may not work in an intense game here because the pressure and pace are so different so the boys have to adjust and find a way to keep up with Guam," Mita added.

Guam coach hopes for more training matches

Meanwhile, Guam head coach Sang Hoon Kim said they are using the friendly matches to integrate younger players to the men's program and evaluate their performance.

"In the past two matches, we've been able to integrate the top players from the younger age levels to play in the higher-level matches, including the match against the NMI Men's National Team. Match experience is very valuable for our players and moving forward, we need more of these opportunities," said Kim, who is also the technical director of the GFA Men's Program.

"We were able to see good performances from many of our younger players, particularly a handful who were selected to play up for the match against the NMI Men's National Team for the first time. The first two results favored Guam, but we still have much more work to do. I believe that the players are now even more focused and motivated to train harder for upcoming matches," he added.

Both Kim and Mita acknowledged the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to their respective programs so having training matches between the two countries and getting support from GFA and NMIFA are important in bringing their players back on track.

"COVID-19 has really affected football development in Guam, with no competitive league matches in Guam since March 2020. We are moving farther and farther behind our regional counterparts with the lack of matches, so we welcomed the invitation from NMI for matches during its training camp in Guam. Having our domestic squad of players take part in these matches has given coaches the opportunity to see their performance in real match situations, and similarly for NMI coaches," Kim said.

"This is a great experience and opportunity for everyone since our national teams haven't been into an international trip since the 2019 Marianas Cup," Mita said.

MENDOZA

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nament. He shot a gross of 85 built around the 15-handicapper's 40 in the front nine and 45 in the back nine.

"I played pretty good on the front nine because the wind wasn't that bad and I was feeling great because I was excited to play again after a month. In fact, I had several pars and even birdied the ninth hole," said Mendoza in Filipino.

Unfortunately, conditions changed on the back nine as the winds picked up and Mendoza and company were at the mercy of Mother Nature.

"The winds got stronger in the back nine so naturally my score went down. But I still knew I was going to win because all of us were affected by the wind. Wind is not as bad as rain, but it's a challenge just the same," he said.

Mendoza attributes his diet of fruits and vegetables and juicing in the morning as keys in maintaining his good health that allows him to play the sport he loves. He also used to walk at least 8 kilometers every other day from Oleai to Kristo Rai Church and back.

"Younger golfers are amazed that even at my age I can still swing the club with the best of them," he said.

The one-time champion of the super seniors division of the Tournament of Champions said he can now heave a sigh of relief that he already qualified for the season-ending Fil-Tage ace of aces tournament.

Mendoza dedicated the win in the February tourney to his wife, Malou.

"She was actually surprised I won despite not playing a lot. I don't really play golf that much now, as I've became enamored with shooting guns at the Saipan firing range. It's not all about practice in golf, as a lot of it is also mental. I do practice golf at the driving range though."

Cris Imbo finished second in the February ace with a net 73 (gross 103, 55-52), while Ed Varias completed the Top 3 with his net 77 (gross 96, 54-42).

In the par 3 competition, Dan Ganacias took the plum in holes No. 3 and 15, while Ruben Avendano was without peer in hole No. 8. Ed Varias won in hole No. 12.

A total of 10 golfers took part in Fil-Taga's February Ace of the Month Tournament and the rest are the following with their net scores in parenthesis: Ruben Avendano (78), Fredie Cataluna (79), Albert Pajarillaga (81), Mike Cruz (82), Dam Ganacias (85), Romy Cayetano (87), and Jun Cayetano (87).

WOO

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6-2, 6-2.

In the women's 40, Marivic Dunlop ruled the roost with a 3-0 record in a similar round-robin format. Dunlop got win No. 3 after defeating Yuko Kumada, 6-3, 6-1.

No. 1 Irin Chung took the girls 14 tiara by outlasting No. 2 Hoo Wang following a marathon match, 6-2, 4-6, 10-2.

Chung earlier blanked Hannah Chae, 6-0, 6-0, to book a seat in the finals, while Wang had to carve out a 7-6 (1), 6-1 win over Anna Kwon.

In another round-robin showdown, Stella Choi won the girls 10 after finishing with a 3-0 record. She secured the championship after triumphing over Emma Kang, 6-2. Kang eventually finished runner-up with a 2-1 record, followed by Vivian Chung (1-2) and Jenna Pascual (0-3).

Results of the boys 16, boys 14, boys 12, and boys 10 will be reported in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

The 2021 White Coconut Tennis Classic is organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

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When the All-Star break ends, the NBA's stretch run begins

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Sports

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Woo wins White Coconut men's singles

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jimin Woo continues to dominate the local men's tennis field after winning the 2021 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Monday at the American Memorial Park.

The 17-year-old senior at Saipan International School and No. 1 seed bested Colin Ramsey in the men's singles finals, 6-2, 6-2, to fulfill the prediction he made earlier.

"I feel very happy about the win. Colin's serve was very good but I felt my return has improved a lot," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Woo punched a ticket to the finals after blanking Andy Kim, 6-0, 6-0, while No. 2 Ramsey defeated No. 4 Sam Ryu, 7-6 (3), 6-2, to advance.

In the mixed doubles, Woo took his second championship of the tourney after teaming up with Ryan Choi and defeating top seeds David Kwon and Yutaka Kadokura in the championship round, 4-6, 6-3, 10-8.

Woo and Choi, the second seeds, advanced to the finals after beating Jun Wang and Henry Yeom, 6-3, 6-1. Kwon and Kadokura barged into the championship round following a hard-earned 6-3, 5-7, 12-10 win over Nason Wessel and Serin Chung.

In the women's singles, top seed Hye Jin Elliot won the title after going undefeated in the round-robin format at 3-0. She capped her stint in the White Coconut Tennis Classic by beating No. 2 seed and fellow SIS student Serin Chung,

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MARK RABAGO

Jimin Woo, left, in action against Colin Ramsey, right, in the men's singles finals of the 2021 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Monday at the American Memorial Park.

NMI coach sees positive response from players

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMI Men's U20 National Team players huddle and discuss last Sunday's friendly game against Guam before starting their training session Monday morning at the Guam Football Association National Training Center.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The NMI's Richard Steele, right, and Guam's Nicolai Medina chase the ball during their friendly game last Sunday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

GUAM - When Northern Marianas Islands Football Association technical director and NMI Men's National Team head coach Michiteru Mita walked through the waiting area at the Guam Football Association National Training Center, he saw his players huddling and having a discussion.

"Are you guys talking about last night's game?" Mita asked.

"Yes coach," the NMI Men's U20 National Team players answered in unison.

Mita nodded as he proceeded to the pitch to prepare for their morning training session, less than 24 hours after the squad bowed to Guam anew in their friendly match Sunday night.

Win or lose, this is the kind of response that Mita wants to see from NMI players after every game. Analyze what happened in the match, see what went wrong, correct them in the next game, and continue to learn from the experience.

"When we play, it would

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Mendoza nets 70 to win February tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Mendoza

Businessman Lito Mendoza shot a lower net than his age to win the Fil-Taga Golfers Association's February Ace of the Month Tournament last Feb. 19 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The 75-year-old native of Paombong, Bulacan in the Philippines fired a net 70 to win the club's monthly tour-

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